

Responses to 2011-2012 Grand Jury Report

Every year, when the annual Santa Cruz County Grand Jury Report is published, designated agencies are requested to respond to the findings and recommendations of the report. These responses may agree or disagree with the findings, and may indicate that recommendations have already been implemented, will be in the future, or will not be implemented, or that further analysis is required.

Comments may also be added to the responses. When a response agrees with a recommendation, further comments are optional. In case of complete or partial disagreement, or in response to recommendations for action, comments should be provided as part of the response.

For each report, the collected responses are published in a separate file on the [grand jury's section of the county's public website](#). Note: The responses are provided as received, and have not been edited, except for minimal formatting to make them appear correctly on this web page.

Report: [Jails and Juvenile Hall Inspection Report](#)

This report requested responses from the following:

1. Santa Cruz County Sheriff: findings 1, 2; recommendations 1, 2
2. Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: findings 2, 3; recommendation 3
3. Chief Probation Officer, Santa Cruz County Probation Department: finding 3

[Note: No separate response from the Probation Department was received. Because the county chose to submit all responses in one consolidated document, it is not possible to distinguish individual agencies.]

- **Finding 1 [Main Jail]: The current practice of transporting inmates off site for certain medical procedures continues to present security issues and additional expense.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff: **AGREE**
[No further comment]
- **Finding 2 [Main Jail]: Uncompleted repairs to the Main Jail lobby are unsightly, unprofessional, and present potential safety hazards.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff: **AGREE**
[No further comment]
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: **AGREE**
[No further comment]

- **Finding 3 [Juvenile Hall]: Juvenile Hall lacks an outside area for exercise and recreation. This is a longstanding deficiency for the facility and the incarcerated youth.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and/or Probation Department: **AGREE**
[No further comment]

- **Recommendation 1 [Main Jail]: In order to reduce staff and transportation costs, and to mitigate transportation security risks, the Sheriff's Office should expand the scope of medical services provided at the Main Jail to adequately serve the jail population and prepare for inmate growth projections due to AB 109.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff: **HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE**
During the 2012/13 budget hearings, the Board of Supervisors approved the Sheriff's Office recommendation to enter into a contract with California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG) for corrections medical services. We anticipate that by September 2012, CFMG will be providing medical and dental services to the Santa Cruz County corrections facilities. We are anticipating a significant reduction in transportation requirements due to the services that will be provided by this new contract.

- **Recommendation 2 [Main Jail]: The Sheriff's Office should immediately request funding from the Board Of Supervisors to complete repairs of the Main Jail lobby.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Sheriff: **HAS NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN THE FUTURE**
The Sheriff's Office is currently working with the County General Services Department to complete the required construction project. It is anticipated that the lobby will be fully functional in about six weeks.

- **Recommendation 3 [Juvenile Hall]: The Board of Supervisors should collaborate with all involved agencies to complete the design, permitting and construction of the already-funded multi-use recreational facility for Juvenile Hall.**
 - Response from Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors: **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED**
The lack of adequate space for physical recreation is a longstanding issue that impacts conditions of confinement for youth in detention. Currently the facility uses a combination of the dayrooms and courtyard to meet the exercise and recreation regulations.

In 2009 the Board of State Community Corrections awarded the Probation Department a state funded SB-81 grant to construct a gym for Juvenile Hall. Unfortunately there have been numerous unforeseen delays since then, the most significant being caused by the presence of an endangered species (June Beetle) on the property.

The endangered species studies were completed this past year. The next stage is to complete the permits with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and identify required mitigation to balance the impacts to the beetle. The Probation Department is presently working with US Fish and Wildlife and the County to address the National Environmental Quality Act and California Environmental Quality Act permit processes to mitigate the impacts of the recreation building on the June Beetle. The department is also actively working with the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) on the design-build project schedule and hopes to have the first meeting before the BSCC Public Works Board in March 2013. Once the initial design plans are complete, the department will begin the development and building permit process as needed, before being able to start construction. Weather permitting; construction should take less than six months.