



**Santa Cruz County**  
**Civil Grand Jury**

**Santa Cruz Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>**

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## **Grand Jury Response**

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**Daisy Aguirre** <Daisy.Aguirre@santacruzcounty.us>

Mon, Aug 16, 2021 at 10:32 AM

To: Grand Jury <grandjury@scgrandjury.org>

Cc: Mitchell Medina <Mitchell.Medina@santacruzcounty.us>

Good morning,

Please see the attached Grand Jury response per Undersheriff Medina.

Thank you,

**Daisy Aguirre**

Program Coordinator

Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office

[5200 Soquel Avenue](#)

[Santa Cruz, CA 95062](#)

831.454.7611



**Grand Jury Response\_.pdf**

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**The 2020–2021 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury  
Requires the**

## **Santa Cruz County Sheriff**

**to Respond to the Findings and Recommendations listed below  
which were assigned to them in the Report Titled**

### **Justice in the Jail**

**“The degree of civilization in a society can be judged  
by entering its prisons.” – Fyodor Dostoevsky**

**by August 16, 2021**

Responses are **required** from elected officials, elected agency or department heads, and elected boards, councils, and committees which are investigated by the Grand Jury. You are required to respond by the California Penal Code [\(PC\) §933\(c\)](#).

Your response will be considered **compliant** under [PC §933.05](#) if it contains an appropriate comment on **all** findings and recommendations **which were assigned to you** in this report.

Please follow the instructions below when preparing your response.

## Instructions for Respondents

Your assigned [Findings](#) and [Recommendations](#) are listed on the following pages with check boxes and an expandable space for summaries, timeframes, and explanations. Please follow these instructions, which paraphrase [PC §933.05](#):

- 1. For the Findings, mark one of the following responses with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **AGREE with the Finding**, or
  - b. **PARTIALLY DISAGREE with the Finding** – specify the portion of the Finding that is disputed and include an explanation of the reasons why, or
  - c. **DISAGREE with the Finding** – provide an explanation of the reasons why.
  
- 2. For the Recommendations, mark one of the following actions with an “X” and provide the required additional information:**
  - a. **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – provide a summary of the action taken, or
  - b. **HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – provide a timeframe or expected date for completion, or
  - c. **REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – provide an explanation, scope, and parameters of an analysis to be completed within six months, or
  - d. **WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – provide an explanation of why it is not warranted or not reasonable.
  
- 3. When your responses are complete, please email your completed Response Packet as a PDF file attachment to both**

The Honorable Judge Syda Cogliati [Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org](mailto:Syda.Cogliati@santacruzcourt.org) and  
The Santa Cruz County Grand Jury [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).

**If you have questions about this response form, please contact the Grand Jury by calling 831-454-2099 or by sending an email to [grandjury@scgrandjury.org](mailto:grandjury@scgrandjury.org).**

## Findings

**F1.** The Board of Supervisors has failed to assert and exercise proper oversight within their purview of the Main jail.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Board is routinely advised on jail related issues and provides input as needed.

**F3.** Adoption of a Sheriffs Oversight Board or Inspector General under Government Code § 25303.7 will provide an effective advocate before the Board of Supervisors and the public regarding the Sheriff's needs.

**AGREE**

**PARTIALLY DISAGREE**

**DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

The Board of State and Community Corrections and the Civil Grand Jury already provide effective oversight.

**F4.** The Correction's Policy Manual must provide timely, comprehensive, applicable, and consistent guidelines for jail operations that serve to assure the safety of inmates and staff.

**AGREE**  
 **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
 **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F5.** The policies in the Correction's Policy Manual regarding razors do not sufficiently assure that razors cannot be used by inmates to harm themselves or others.

**AGREE**  
 **PARTIALLY DISAGREE**  
 **DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F6.** Events of violence and death in the Main Jail contrast negatively with the Sheriff's Office mission, visions, and goals.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F7.** Old and outdated equipment and systems in the Main Jail are detrimental to safe, efficient, and effective management of the facility.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F8.** Long delays in replacing the backup power generators put staff and inmates at risk in the event of a power failure.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

**F9.** Limited staffing and requiring mandatory overtime of Correction Officers at the Main Jail are detrimental to performance, staff morale, and contribute to human error which can threaten the health and safety of staff and inmates.

- AGREE**
- PARTIALLY DISAGREE**
- DISAGREE**

**Response explanation** (required for a response other than **Agree**):

## Recommendations

- R3.** Within six months the Sheriff should propose for the Board of Supervisors' review and approval an increase in Correction Officer staffing and associated budget to reduce the need for mandatory overtime and to sufficiently staff the Main Jail. (F1, F9)

**HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done

**HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

**REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

**X WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

### Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:

The budget is already negotiated annually. Current staffing levels in the Corrections Bureau are adequate. Mandatory overtime is in place due to several unfunded and vacant positions and because of 11 corrections officers being out on long term leave (FMLA, worker comp, etc.)



**R4.** Within six months the Sheriff should amend the Correction’s Policy Manual to remove inapplicable provisions and to add provisions relating to razors that more effectively limit and control the conditions of their use by inmates. (F4, F5)

- HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done
- HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe
- REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)
- WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

Razor procedures have been updated. Corrections Training Bulletin (CTB #81) distributed to staff on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**R5.** Within three months the Sheriff's Office and the General Services Department should establish formal protocols for regular monthly meetings to review the status of all correctional facilities, including providing estimates of completion for any repairs and/or replacements that are outstanding, and prioritizing items that directly affect the health and safety of inmates and/or staff. Such meetings should be documented and open to inspection by the County Administrative Officer and the Board of Supervisors. (F7, F8)

**X** **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done

**HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

**REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

**WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

Regularly scheduled formal monthly meetings are occurring. Minutes are available for inspection.

**R6.** Within 60 days the Sheriff's Office and the General Services Department should provide a written report to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Administrative Officer providing both the specifications for, and a timeline for completion of each stage of the project to replace and/or repair the backup emergency power system, and thereafter update such report every thirty days until such project is completed. (F7, F8)

**X** **HAS BEEN IMPLEMENTED** – summarize what has been done

**HAS NOT YET BEEN IMPLEMENTED BUT WILL BE IN THE FUTURE** – summarize what will be done and the timeframe

**REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS** – explain the scope and timeframe (not to exceed six months)

**WILL NOT BE IMPLEMENTED** – explain why

**Required response explanation, summary, and timeframe:**

The General Services Department will complete a written report and will provide it to the Board of Supervisors and the Chief Administrative Officer for review. Monthly updates will be provided until the project is completed.