

MEMORANDUM
DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY SERVICES
COUNTY OF PLACER

To: **GRAND JURY** Date: **SEPTEMBER 4, 2001**

From: **THOMAS MILLER**
DIRECTOR OF FACILITY SERVICES

Subject: **RESPONSES TO THE GRAND JURY REPORT FY2000/01**

Attached, please find our responses to the Grand Jury Report regarding the Placer County Main Jail and Minimum Security Jail Inspections; Burton Creek (Tahoe) Sheriff's Substation Court Facilities, and Jail Inspection; Services for Victims of Domestic Violence Under State Mandate (Presley Funds).

Please feel free to contact me at (530) 889-7763 if you have any questions.

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PLACER COUNTY MAIN JAIL AND MINIMUM SECURITY JAIL INSPECTIONS

GRAND JURY FINDING #2

There still exists a serious need to expand the Main Jail and Minimum Security Jail to house additional inmates, provide program space, and provide additional staff space.

RESPONSE: Facility Services concurs with the finding.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #2A

The Board of Supervisors, County Executive Officer, Sheriff’s Department, Criminal Justice Policy Commission, and Facility Services Director should all work together to accomplish the expansion of the Main Jail and Minimum Security Jail.

RESPONSE: Facility Services concurs with the recommendation. Consistent with the recommendation, the Board of Supervisors awarded a contract on July 24th in the amount of \$7,255,284 for construction of a fourth expansion of the Auburn Jail facility. Summarized, this project will provide an additional cell capacity of 96 beds and administrative and program space. Facility Services will continue to work with the above referenced authorities to provide for additional minimum-security space.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #4

The Board of Supervisors, County Executive Office, Sheriff’s Department and Criminal Justice Policy Commission should continue to work towards construction of a South Placer Criminal Justice Facility.

It is the Grand Jury’s desire, as it has been for past Grand Juries, that a South County Facility located in the Roseville-Lincoln-Loomis-Rocklin area be built.

RESPONSE: As authorized by the Board of Supervisors, during FY 2000/01, Facility Services is in the process of selecting a site for this facility.

**BURTON CREEK (TAHOE) SHERIFF’S SUBSTATION COURT FACILITIES,
AND JAIL INSPECTION**

GRAND JURY FINDING #1

The Burton Creek facility is unsafe and inadequate. The County agrees it will be replaced no later than 2005.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #1

The Board of Supervisors should commit to completing the replacement of the facility within the next four years.

RESPONSE: Partially disagree. The County has, and continues to improve the Burton Creek facility so as to improve its safety and overall functionality. Previously completed improvements have included new siding and roof, exterior painting, and minor interior remodeling. More recently, a building-wide smoke and fire alarm system was installed in September of 2000. These improvements should serve the occupants and county citizens well until this facility is replaced. It is noted that the Grand Jury report includes a specific replacement date of 2005. Although efforts are currently being expended to conceptually plan a replacement facility, Facility Services' staff is unaware of a commitment to replace this facility by 2005. Lastly, it should be noted that replacement of this facility is projected to cost more than \$11,000,000 and must be considered in conjunction with other countywide facility needs.

GRAND JURY FINDING #2

The present building, although two story and wood frame, is without a sprinkler system and adequate fire alarm system. The County recently installed an alarm system but has no plans to install a sprinkler system.

GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATION #2

Install a sprinkler system throughout the structure in the building.

RESPONSE: There are no scheduled sprinkler system improvements for the building. The fire alarm system recently installed should adequately provide for safe evacuation in the event of a fire.

**SERVICES FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
UNDER STATE MANDATE (PRESLEY FUNDS)**

FINDING #2

The Grand Jury observed routine maintenance issue during its inspection of the shelter, including leaky bathroom faucets and exposed electrical outlets.

RESPONSE: It should be noted that the "exposed electrical outlet" consists of the absence of a plastic faceplate. The existing lease agreement stipulates that the building occupant replace any and all broken faceplates during the term of occupancy. It is not feasible, nor cost effective, for County staff to inspect all outlet covers in all leased buildings. Facility Services has either

inspected or provided services within this building approximately six times over the last year. Overall, given the age and use of the facility, staff found the interior space in reasonable condition.

RECOMMENDATION #2

The Grand Jury recommends that the Placer County Facility Services Department provide maintenance, service, and repairs to the entire building (interior and exterior) at no cost to assure a safe and healthy environment for families escaping a violent environment. The Grand Jury further recommends that the Placer County Board of Supervisors approve this as an ongoing expenditure.

RESPONSE: The recommendation (Fiscal policy) appears to be directed to the Board of Supervisors. However, it should be noted that the space occupied by the Women's Shelter currently receives a subsidy of \$21,857 per year when compared to other similar leased space within DeWitt Center. Additionally, the Women's Center occupies a DeWitt Building for use as a Thrift Shop and does not pay rent for this location. The value of this "waived" rent constitutes an additional \$8,947 per year.

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