



# ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

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**SHERIFF-CORONER  
SANDRA HUTCHENS**

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

July 24, 2014

Honorable Glenda Sanders  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, California 92701

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2013-2014 report, "Annual Report on Jail and Juvenile Detention Facilities"

Dear Judge Sanders,

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the response to the FY 2013-2014 Orange County Grand Jury report, "Annual Report on Jail and Juvenile Detention Facilities." If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Steve Kea at (714) 647-4655.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Hutchens", written over a white background.

Sandra Hutchens  
Sheriff-Coroner

Cc: Dave Baker, Grand Jury Foreman  
Members, Board of Supervisors  
Michael Giancola, County Executive Officer

## **FINDINGS**

### **F.1**

**All the jails have inadequate video equipment. The video equipment itself is not the hindrance. The cost to upgrade the infrastructure to accommodate new updated equipment is the limiting factor.**

**Response:** *Agrees with finding.*

The Sheriff's Department has recognized the need for more adequate video equipment in the jail facilities. The addition of upgraded video equipment has been listed as an improvement project for several years but has not been completed due to the lack of financial resources.

### **F.2**

**Budget constraints have marginalized upgrading efficient video equipment, thus reducing adequate monitoring of inmates.**

**Response:** *Partially agrees with finding.*

Current monitoring of inmates is adequate. Upgrading to more efficient video equipment could enhance the monitoring of inmates.

### **F.3**

**As the quickest fix to alleviate partial improvements, prioritize what jail facilities are most in need of upgraded surveillance and then fund each one accordingly until all five jails are completed.**

**Response:** *Partially agrees with finding.*

The Sheriff's Department has prioritized its jail video surveillance needs. Upgrades will be done in order of need. Portions of each jail will receive upgrades, rather than completing one whole facility at a time.

### **F.4**

**The skill level of employees assigned to the five jails cannot currently support upgraded video systems. An upgraded system would require advanced training in audio/video equipment, software programming and security to monitor such an enterprise.**

**Response:** *Disagrees with finding.*

An upgraded system will require little in the way of training. Jail personnel will not manage the video equipment. The Sheriff's Department technical staff will be responsible for the management of the upgraded video systems.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **R.1**

**Each of the five jails should be funded for upgraded video camera/recording equipment installed as soon as possible.**

**Response:** *The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future.*

Upgraded video camera/recording equipment will be installed as funding becomes available.

**R.2**

**The Board of Supervisors should add a line item to the budget to include the training required to ensure competent employees who can oversee and maintain new video equipment.**

**Response:** *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.*

No additional budget line item is necessary for training related to the maintenance of new video equipment. Any necessary training will be incorporated into the existing on-the-job training for employees of the Sheriff's Department technical staff.