



County of Orange

County Executive Office

July 11, 2017

Honorable Charles Margines
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Grand Jury Report, "The Great Escape – Never Again?"

Dear Judge Margines:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 933, please find the combined County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. The respondents are the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the County Executive Office.

If you have any questions, please contact Lilly Simmering of the County Executive Office at 714-834-6748.

Sincerely,

Frank Kim
County Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: FY 2016-17 Orange County Grand Jury Foreman
Lilly Simmering, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, County Executive Office



Responses to Findings and Recommendations
2016-17 Grand Jury Report:

"The Great Escape – Never Again?"

SUMMARY RESPONSE STATEMENT:

On April 24, 2017 the Grand Jury released a report entitled: "The Great Escape – Never Again?" This report directed responses to findings and recommendations to the Orange County Board of Supervisors and the Orange County Sheriff's Department. Below are the responses from the Board of Supervisors; the Orange County Sheriff's Department will be submitting its response separately.

FINDINGS AND RESPONSES:

F.2. Several past Grand Jury reports noted inadequacies in the video monitoring of inmates in the CMJ and recommended funding to update the systems. Such funding was not approved by the Board of Supervisors until the 2014-2015 fiscal year. In addition to the need to update video equipment, the OCSD has identified, and this Grand Jury agrees, that there is a crucial need to fund the following:

- An updated computer system to facilitate the completion of RFI throughout all of the jails
- Full body scanner and/or additional metal detectors
- Additional CCTV systems including coverage of all roof areas and an employee who monitors the screens in real time
- Additional fencing on the CMJ roof

Funding of these additional security components will greatly enhance security. Failure to provide funding for these needed upgrades will severely impact OCSD's ability to prevent future escapes.

Response: Partially disagrees with finding. The County Budget Office has and will continue to work closely with the Sheriff's Department to prioritize the security components and develop a plan to utilize the \$2M provided each year to address them. Each year, during the annual budget process, the listing of projects will be reviewed and amended as agreed upon by both the Sheriff Department and County Executive Office.

Funding for these upgrades, alone, is not the only factor that contributes to OCSD's ability to prevent future escapes. As was outlined in the report, other factors such as training and implementation of efficient processes are as equally important.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

R.1. The Board of Supervisors should continue to provide funding as outlined in the five year plan and provide additional funding in the FY 2017-18 budget as detailed in the OCSD Jail Hardening Report to complete the long term hardening requirements requested by OCSD.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The County has made continuous efforts to ensure funding is available for the Sheriff's Department each year to address critical needs. Each year, the budget includes \$2M for general capital projects. In FY 2016-17, over \$5M was budgeted to address Sheriff's projects at the Central Jail. In FY 2017-18, the Recommended Budget includes over \$8M for Central Jail projects including the CCTV System and the Automated Jail System. The County is committed to working with the Sheriff's Department to continue to address critical projects.