



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT  
COUNTY OF ORANGE  
CALIFORNIA**

**SANDRA HUTCHENS  
SHERIFF-CORONER**

OFFICE OF SHERIFF-CORONER

April 15, 2011

Honorable Thomas J. Borris  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Review of Orange County Detention Facilities"

Dear Judge Borris:

In accordance with Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, enclosed please find the response to the Orange County Grand Jury 2010-2011 Report, "Review of Orange County Detention Facilities." If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Sheriff Mike James at (714) 647-4590.

Respectfully,

Sandra Hutchens  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Jerry L. Powell, Grand Jury Foreman  
Members, Board of Supervisors  
Thomas G. Mauk, County Executive Officer

550 N. FLOWER STREET, SANTA ANA, CA 92703 (714) 647-1800

*Integrity without compromise. Service above self. Professionalism in the performance of duty.  
Vigilance in safeguarding our community*



**ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT  
GRAND JURY RESPONSE  
CONDITION OF ORANGE COUNTY JAILS**

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Dear members of the Grand Jury,

The Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) has received and reviewed the Orange County Grand Jury report titled "Review of Orange County Detention Facilities". The Orange County Sheriff's Department has reviewed the findings in a collaborative effort with necessary personnel and has prepared the following response.

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**FINDINGS**

**FINDINGS 1**

The facilities visited were generally clean and in good condition.

***Response: Agree with Finding.***

Each Orange County Sheriff custody facility employs a class of employees specifically trained and designated to supervise work crews during daily cleaning duties. The work crews are designated specific areas of responsibility. Areas deemed in disrepair are submitted for attention based on their level of severity. Facility upgrades and repairs are identified and funded through administrative process.



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**Finding 2**

The use of trained personnel as well as high definition cameras, motion sensors and other modern technology have kept disruptions in the jail to a minimum.

**Response: Agree with Finding.**

All Orange County Sheriff custody personnel are trained to current standards at time of hire and assignment to custody operations. Annually thereafter, custody personnel are assigned training including Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), Use of Force / conflict management option, Policy and Procedure and legal updates. Daily briefings provide additional training and guidelines to maintain current with operational needs. Inmate supervision is accomplished by direct visual observation at regular mandated intervals supplemented with fixed cameras at strategic positions, inmate emergency call buttons, closed circuit monitors, two-way staff radios and inmate counts. Fixed camera images at the Central Jail Complex and Theo Lacy are recorded and maintained in secure storage.

(Note- OCSD Custody Operations does not use motion sensors)

**Finding 3**

The programs instituted by the Sheriff's Inmate Services Division as well as other governmental entities are attempting to reduce inmate recidivism in Orange County

**Response: Agree with Finding.**

The mission of the Correctional Programs and Inmate Re-Entry Units is to seamlessly transition our inmates upon release from custody into community based programs designed to enhance their successful reintegration into the community, thereby reducing recidivism rates. Over the past few years, the Orange County Sheriff's Department Inmate Services Division's Correctional Programs and Inmate Re-Entry Units have



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**(F.3-Findings continued)**

implemented a variety of programs to directly reduce recidivism rates in Orange County. With the implementation of the PROXY initial screening tool, combined with the validated Wisconsin Risk and Needs Assessment, Inmate Services staff can now target those high risk to reoffend inmates providing them with intensive in-custody programs, discharge plans, and post release services through our Great Escape Resource Center. Also, as one of six counties selected to participate in the "Transition from Jails to Communities" initiative, the Orange County Sheriff's Department has taken the lead in developing collaborations with other key stakeholders in the county such as Probation, Social Services, Health Care, Collaborative Courts, and the Orange County Reentry Partnership (OCREP) with the goal of providing a seamless transition for inmates leaving our county jails and integrating back into our community. Finally, Inmate Services staff is currently working with the Urban Institute to develop better methods of collecting data and tracking recidivism rates

**Finding 4**

Orange County Detention facilities are not overcrowded.

**Response: *Agree with findings***

The Orange County Sheriff Department monitors the inmate population and continues to develop strategies to avoid overcrowding while still maintaining a no early release standard. The inmate population management program has been successful in allowing the department to branch out and compete for revenue offset opportunities with the Federal Government.



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**Finding 5**

Due to recent implementation of the federal ICE program, the financial impact is too new to be assessed.

**Response: *Disagrees partially with the finding.***

Since the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Review was completed on February 18, 2011, there has been data developed to establish the financial impact of the program. Please see Recommendation R-2 for a complete response.

**Finding 6**

The S.A.F.E. Division initiated by the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner in 2010 is an early-warning system designed to enhance sheriff department functions.

**Response: *Agree with findings.***

With the establishment of the S.A.F.E. Division, the Orange County Sheriff Department has implemented systems such as the Personnel History Index, Critical Incident Review process and the Force Trends Review Board which are components to the department's early warning system. These systems have been developed to ensure the department's commitment to accountability, transparency and professionalism promised to the residents of Orange County.

Note- The S.A.F.E. Division was established in 2008.



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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**RECOMMENDATIONS 1**

Continue to keep facilities in clean and good condition as well as keep inmate disruption at a minimum.

**Response: *The recommendation has been implemented***

The Orange County Sheriff Department Custody Operations understands the importance of a clean and orderly custody facility. Along with daily work crews assigned general cleaning duties, each custody staff member is responsible for inspecting their work area for cleanliness or maintenance problems. A weekly inspection is conducted by the cleaning crew supervisor with a report submitted to the Division Commander. Repairs requiring temporary inmate relocation are coordinated through facility classification with consideration towards inmate safety and the security of each facility.

**RECOMMENDATIONS 2**

Collect and analyze data to evaluate the present financial impact of the ICE program on Orange County.

**Response: *The recommendation has been implemented***

The Sheriff's FY 2010-11 budget for the ICE detainee program is \$21.8 million in revenue. The total revenue billed for services for the period of August 2010 through January 2011 was \$10.1 million. As of January 2011, the ICE revenue fiscal year-end projection is \$21.4 million, which is just 1.8% less than the amount budgeted. We will continue to monitor our costs and contract obligations in future years.



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**RECOMMENDATIONS 3**

Develop a study to better understand the causes of the reduced inmate population that currently exist in Orange County detention facilities.

**Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.***

A study will be undertaken researching the cause of the current local decline in inmate population. The study will be completed by August 18, 2011.

**RECOMMENDATIONS 4**

Continue to assess and present evidence-based data from the S.A.F.E. Division of the Orange County Sheriff's Department to enhance transparency, provide effective law enforcement and reduce civil litigation.

**Response: *The recommendation has been implemented.***

The S.A.F.E. Division presents quarterly Force Trend Reviews and annual Operational Assessments to all command staff. These analysis and assessments are developed utilizing up to date comprehensive data collection techniques established by the department and insured by proven quality control mechanisms. Representatives from County Counsel and the Office of Independent Review, a civilian oversight committee established by the Board of Supervisors, actively attend and participate during all reviews and assessments. It is the directive of the Sheriff to continue these reviews and work toward enhancing their effectiveness and utility.