



County of Orange
California

James D. Ruth
Interim
County Executive Officer

September 16, 2003

Carlos N. Olvera, Foreman
FY 02/03 Grand Jury
Superior Court of California
700 Civic Center Drive West
Santa Ana, CA 92702

Subject: Response to Orange County Grand Jury Report, "The State of Orange County Jails"

Dear Mr. Olvera:

Per your request, and in accordance with Penal Code 993, enclosed please find the County of Orange response to the subject report as approved by the Board of Supervisors. If you have any questions, please contact Frank Kim at the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Respectfully,

James D. Ruth, Interim County Executive Officer

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2002-2003 Orange County Grand Jury Report

The State of Orange County Jails

FINDINGS

1. **The county jails have been overcrowded for the past two years.**

Response: Agree with finding.

7. **The only current jail site that is available for expansion is the James A. Musick facility.**

Response: Agree with finding.

The James A. Musick facility is the only jail site with an approved Environmental Impact Report for future expansion.

9. **The most recent needs assessment by OCSD was completed in 1998.**

Response: Disagree partially with finding.

While the last formal needs assessment was completed in 1998, the OCSD conducts ongoing needs assessment studies.

11. **Staffing for the beds at Theo Lacy, scheduled to open in 2005, has not received budget approval.**

Response: Disagree partially with the finding.

The Board of Supervisors approved a three-phase expansion of the Theo Lacy facility. The construction of Building "C" and "A" are complete with approved staffing budgets. The final phase, Building "B", is scheduled to open in September 2004. The staffing budget request for Building "B" will be considered by the Board of Supervisors during the FY 2004-05 budget development process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. **The OCSD attempt to achieve compliance with State standards for local detention facilities and begin planning for new jail beds.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented

The OCSD is committed to achieving compliance with State standards for local detention facilities. To address current and projected jail bed needs, the OCSD is continuing to construct new jail facilities at the Theo Lacy facility as well as planning for new construction at the James A. Musick facility. Included in the OCSD budget for FY 2003-04 is funding for a Master Plan for the James A. Musick facility.

2. **The OCSD begin an in-depth need assessment immediately.**

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

The Board of Supervisors approved \$2.5 million in the FY 2003-04 budget to develop a Master Plan for the James A. Musick facility. A needs assessment will be completed as part of the Master Plan.

3. **The OCSD develop a master plan of the James A. Musick facility.**

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

The FY 2003-04 budget includes \$2.5 million for the development of a Musick Master Plan. The plan is expected to be complete in FY 2004-05.

4. **The OCSD seek funding approval for staff at the Theo Lacy expansion.**

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

The final phase of Theo Lacy expansion is expected to be operational in FY 2004-05. Board of Supervisors will consider the staffing budget for this expansion as part of the OCSD budget request in June 2004.

5. **Food Services continue the planning of a centralized cook-chill food production system to provide a more cost-effective system.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented.

Planning is currently underway for a centralized cook/chill system that will allow for efficient food processing for all jail facilities. It is anticipated that the plan will be complete and ready for Board of Supervisors consideration as part of the FY 2004-05 budget.