



County of Orange
California

James D. Ruth
County Executive Officer

July 29, 2004

Tom Staple, Foreman
FY 03/04 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. Staple:

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 Brian Wayt at the County Executive Office who will either assist you or direct you to the appropriate individual.

Very truly yours,

James D. Ruth
County Executive Officer

County Executive Office
10 Civic Center Plaza
Third Floor
Santa Ana, California
9: 4062

Tel: (714) 834-2345
Fax: (714) 834-4416
Web: www.oc.ca.gov

2003-2004 Grand Jury Report
“The State of Orange County Jails”
Response to Findings and Recommendations

Response to Findings:

1. The jail facilities operated by the Orange County Sheriff-Coroner Department continue to suffer from overcrowded conditions.

Response: Agrees with Finding

2. There are insufficient short-term holding facilities for arrestees awaiting transport from the several Orange County Sheriff-Coroner contract cities to Orange County Central Jail. Arrestees must be transported individually or in small numbers up to 40 miles one-way

Response: Agrees with Finding

3. Registered Nurses are unavailable evenings and weekends at the Los Pinos Conservation Camp, a remotely located facility for juveniles. This requires transport of ill or injured wards to a hospital 15-20 miles away in Riverside County.

Response: Agrees with Finding

Response to Recommendations:

1. The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner continue to diligently pursue compliance with State standards and to address the projected growth of the inmate population by planning for the addition of jail beds.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented

The Sheriff-Coroner is continuing to pursue all options to meet State compliance standards for inmate capacity ratings as well as to address the future needs of the Orange County Jail system. This includes the expansion of the Theo Lacy Facility, in which Building A has been completed and Building B should be completed during 2005. In addition, the Sheriff-Coroner will continue to utilize pre-trial custody release options to manage inmate counts.

2. The Orange County Sheriff-Coroner locate a suitable site to construct a secure detention facility for the short-term housing of inmate to eliminate the need to transport individuals or small numbers of inmates long distances from the point of arrest to the Orange County Central Jail complex in Santa Ana.

Response: The recommendation has been implemented

The Sheriff-Coroner has identified two possible locations that could be developed for the use of short-term housing. A final determination of where to locate this facility is pending approval from all parties involved as well as approval of the necessary funding for construction and operation.

3. The Orange County Probation Department take steps to place a full-time Registered Nurse, including evenings and weekends, in its Los Pinos Conservation Camp.

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable

The Probation Department is provided Juvenile Health Services for Los Pinos Conservation Camp via the County's Health Care Agency (HCA). Medical/healthcare is coordinated by Probation and executed by HCA. All wards receive timely professional healthcare through HCA. Medical Staff are on duty 24 hours per day, 7 days per week at Juvenile Hall, and are routinely contacted by telephone to triage any and all medical situations in the evening and on weekends. Contract services including emergency services or 911 emergency response is also paid for by County HCA.