

FILED

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**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF TRINITY**

BY: DONNA REGNANI, DEPUTY CLERK

DR

**TRINITY COUNTY GRAND JURY
2003-2004**

**JUDICIAL COMMITTEE
FINAL REPORT**

TRINITY COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY

**This report was approved
on May 10, 2004**

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FINAL REPORT**

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PURPOSE:

Penal code section 919(b) mandates that the Grand Jury will annually inquire into the conditions and management of all public prisons within the county.

BACKGROUND:

The California State Board of Corrections classifies the Trinity County Detention Facility (Jail) as a Type II facility. This facility is used to detain persons who are awaiting or undergoing trial proceedings, convicted persons sentenced to serve time up to one year, and minimum security state parolees back in custody due to parole violations. The maximum capacity of the jail is 53. In an emergency the inmate population can be as high as 63, but the California State Board of Corrections will not stand behind the Jail Staff if a grievance is filed for overcrowding, if the population exceeds 53. The inmate population was 38 on October 14, 2003, the day the Grand Jury Judicial Committee visited the jail. During the month of September 2003 the average daily inmate population was 55. The highest inmate population experienced was 65.

METHOD OF INVESTIGATION:

Prior to the inquiry, the Judicial Committee received two Citizen's Complaints, numbers 2003-2004 #14 and 2003-2004 #17, concerning conditions within the County Jail. The committee addressed these complaints as part of and during the visit on October 14, 2003. These two complaints concerned the inmate telephone system, the quality of food served, and repetitive problems experienced with a hot water heater. All of the members of the Grand Jury Judicial Committee met with Sheriff Lorrac Craig and Jail Commander Sergeant Bill Broschat and toured the Detention Facility (Jail) on October 14, 2003. Prior to the inquiry Sergeant Broschat supplied, for the Judicial Committee's review, the Jail Policy and Procedure Manual and copies of current inspection reports from California Board of Corrections, Deputy State Fire, Marshall and California Medical Association/Institute for Medical Qualities Committee on Corrections and Detention Health Care. Using Board of Corrections procedures for Title 15 facilities, the members of the Judicial Committee toured every room within the detention facility; discussed routine and significant activities with jailers and the Sheriff's office staff; and interviewed 7 male inmates and 3 female inmates. During the inmate interviews 2 complaints were received for submission to the full Grand Jury for acceptance and further review and/or investigation. The complaints were later accepted and submitted to the Judicial Committee for action as complaints number 2003-2004 #30 and 2003-2004 #32. These

two complaints added issues concerning inmate receipt of medical items and the housing segregation of prisoners by classification.

FINDING #1:

Staffing Levels and Overcrowding - The staffing levels at the jail currently meet the staffing levels required by the State of California, but this is accomplished partially by using patrol officers and thus decreases patrol coverage. The September population average that was in excess of established inmate population maximums is clear indication of current and anticipated future problems within the jail. Operating at or above the maximum inmate population requires diverting even more patrol deputies from public protection and response activities into correctional officer activities. Routine operation above the established maximum capacities make Trinity County vulnerable to inmate grievance and potential suit. One direct result of a full jail is the jailers inability to accomplish optimum segregation of inmates by classification, (Citizen Complaint 2003-2004 #32).

RECOMMENDATION #1:

The Trinity County Superior Court, Trinity County District Attorney and Trinity County Public Defenders need to ensure that no pretrial or presentence individual is incarcerated within the Trinity County Jail unless there is substantial reason to conclude that it is necessary for protection of the public during proceedings or needed to prevent flight to avoid prosecution. We suggest, to help reduce inmate overcrowding, periodically, annually or more frequently, a meeting be held between the District Attorney and Public Defenders to review experience during the most recent period and recommend or make further reductions in inmate populations as appropriate.

FINDING #2:

Food Service - (Citizen Complaint 2003-2004 #17) Through inspection and interview with staff and inmates it is apparent that the food served within the jail is of good quality and nutritious. Most inmates who had served time in other facilities were very complimentary of the food served. Due to good nutrition and decreased physical activity, most inmates gain weight while in Trinity County Jail.

RECOMMENDATION #2:

Food service personnel should be commended for their good work and encouraged to keep it up.

FINDING #3:

Inmate Welfare Fund - Purchase of items and expenditures that support the welfare of the inmates are routinely made from an Inmate Welfare Fund, as established by

