

2011-2012 GRAND JURY

JUR-2011-2012-002

REPORT

Trinity County Detention  
Facility: Disaster Pending!

BOS

RESPONSE



# TRINITY COUNTY

Board of Supervisors

P.O. BOX 1613, WEAVERVILLE, CALIFORNIA 96093  
PHONE (530) 623-1217 FAX (530) 623-8365

*Reviewed 10/15/12*  
*[Signature]*

TO: The Honorable James Woodward,  
Judge of the Superior Court

FROM: Trinity County Board of Supervisors  
Anton R. Jaegel, Chairman *[Signature]*

CC: Clerk of the Board  
Foreperson, Grand Jury

SUBJECT: Response to Recommendations of 2011-12  
Grand Jury Judicial Committee Final Report  
JUR 2011/12-002 – Detention Facility

DATE: September 4, 2012

The Grand Jury Judicial Committee has requested a written response to their final report number JUR 2011/12-002. The Board's response is as follows:

**Finding #1:** *The 8/15/11 response to the 2010-2011 Grand Jury Report stated, "The video system is failing and plans are underway to have it replaced in the coming weeks". Although new security cameras have been purchased (some time ago), to date they have not been installed. At the time of the tour only one of the old cameras appeared to be working.*

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation #1:** *It is imperative for the safety of the staff and inmates that the monitoring system be functional. It is the top priority for replacement. Complete the installation immediately.*

**Response:** Has been implemented. Currently 5 cameras have been installed, and jail staff reports that the remainder of them will be installed early in Fall of 2012.

**Finding #2:** *The mandates of California Bill AB109 are overloading a Jail facility that is not designed for long term housing. Due to the overcrowding the Law Enforcement Officers are having to make a determination as to whether to arrest, or just cite an individual because "There is no room at the Inn".*

JUDY PFLUEGER  
DISTRICT 1

JUDY MORRIS  
DISTRICT 2

ROGER JAEGEL  
DISTRICT 3

DEBRA CHAPMAN  
DISTRICT 4

WENDY OTTO  
DISTRICT 5

*TRINITY  
VERITY*

**Response:** Agree. AB109 has negatively impacted the detention facility and has resulted in Jail staff making difficult but necessary decisions as to cite and release to avoid overcrowding.

**Recommendation 2a:** *Look for housing for long term inmates in surrounding counties.*

**Response:** Requires further analysis. Surrounding counties are experiencing the same issues Trinity County is facing. There is a lack of space and funds to increase current facilities or to move detainees to other facilities. Many counties are exploring options as a group.

**Recommendation 2b:** *Pay the State Prison bed fee of \$137.00 per day, or CalFire bed fee of \$45.00 per day to house these inmates until funding for a new facility is acquired.*

**Response:** Will not be implemented. The County does not currently have funds to cover this additional expense; and AB109 funds do not cover all of the cost associated with this legislation or the required mandates.

**Finding 3:** *There are a number of maintenance and repairs that need attention.*

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 3:** *In conjunction with County General Services staff, use jail trustees to perform required maintenance. For example, but not limited to, holes in the walls, weed control and security cameras.*

**Response:** Has been implemented. Maintenance issues are being addressed and prioritized with issues affecting detainees and staff safety given top priority. Funding is another issue the County faces in taking care of these maintenance issues. With the limited funding we have, trustees and volunteers are being utilized to help with maintenance and weed control.

**Finding 4:** *Female staffing continues to be inadequate. Gender specific positions can be advertised for a detention facility.*

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 4:** *Advertise and fill the position that is gender specific.*

**Response:** Will be implemented. The Sheriff's Office has completed two recruitments for Correctional Officer/Dispatcher and has created an eligibility list. Appointments will be made when funds are available.

**Finding 5:** *There is a mixing of inmates that are pre-trial, trustee, and felony offenders.*

**Response:** Agree.

**Recommendation 5:** *Find alternative means to separate the classes of inmates: such as monitoring devices, work release programs, housing elsewhere.*

**Response:** Has been implemented. Staff are currently housing detainees based on history, safety to staff and safety to other detainees. Electronic monitoring and alternative sentencing programs are already being utilized, as are cite and release programs to address overcrowding.

**Finding 6:** *Lack of supervisory personnel and funding has been the catch all excuse for many years. With the County's limited resources, management must prioritize both staffing and funding needs.*

**Response:** Agree in part. Lack of funding and limited resources does result in the county making difficult decisions about staffing and prioritizing needs; this is a fact and not a "catch all excuse".

**Recommendation 6a:** *To minimize the County's liability issues, management must prioritize resources for maintenance and repairs.*

**Response:** Has been implemented. Staff is currently prioritizing limited resources to address needed maintenance and repairs.

**Recommendation 6b:** *A strategic plan for funding a new facility should be developed and implemented immediately.*

**Response:** Has been implemented. The need for a new jail facility is well known and has been addressed in previous findings. Funding to meet this need and clear this finding is almost nonexistent and very competitive. The Sheriff's office has been very proactive in pursuing grant applications and other alternative funding sources. A consulting firm was hired and completed a Jail Needs Assessment to assist with this pursuit. The County and Sheriff's office are working closely to explore all funding opportunities for a new facility.