



# TUOLUMNE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

*"Serving with Professionalism and Pride"*

Bill Pooley  
Sheriff-Coroner **AUG 24 2020**

Superior Court of California  
County of Tuolumne

By: Diana Neely Clerk

August 17, 2020

The Honorable Kate Powell-Segerstrom  
Tuolumne County Superior Court  
60 North Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Response to the Grand Jury Report- Tuolumne County Jail

The following is offered in response to the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Tuolumne County Jail.

## **Grand Jury Recommendations**

**Recommendation #1:** The Grand Jury recommends Jail Personnel responsible for tours and inspections should alert participants of the "no hostage policy" well in advance of entering the jail. Include the "no hostage policy" in the Grand Jury Summary provided at the beginning of the tour. (F1)

**Findings #1:** The policy in which law enforcement agencies do not honor "hostage for trade" events was not explained to the jurors before the jail tour. The hostage policy was explained after the jurors were inside the facility and therefore unable to exercise their decision to not enter the facility and assume the risk.

**Response: Agree -** *In the future, members of the Grand Jury will be required to acknowledge and sign a Jail Tour Advisement Form prior to entry. This form includes the no hostage policy.*

**Recommendation #2:** The Grand Jury recommends continued compassionate and respectful treatment of inmates as warranted. (F2)

**Findings #2:** In several instances, inmates expressed appreciation for respectful treatment by jail staff, which the Grand Jury believes is an important aspect of helping in rehabilitation efforts.

**Response: Agree-** *Sheriff's Office also believes that respectful treatment of inmates is an important aspect of their rehabilitation*

**Recommendation #3:** The Grand Jury recommends continued and expanded jail programs in the new jail (F3)

**Findings #3:** An impressive number of quality programs are available to inmates

*Response: Agree - We are always looking for new programs to add. With the new jail we will have more room to accommodate additional programs and serve more inmates.*

**Recommendation #4:** The Grand Jury recommends facility personnel take appropriate measures to stop the progress of mildew in women's shower areas. (F4)

**Findings #4:** The women's shower stall area shows signs of excessive duress, damage due to wear. Mildew is prevalent in certain areas.

*Response: Agree - The showers areas of the dorms were recently overhauled by maintenance workers. Additionally, the Watch Commanders are required to inspect the housing units weekly for maintenance and safety issues.*

**Recommendation #5:** The Grand Jury recommends replacing electrical panel or installing a waterproof wall separating the plumbing from the electrical. (F5)

**Findings #5:** Electrical panels and damaged plumbing in the ground floor corridor present severe safety elements in dire need of attention.

*Response: Agree - However, the current jail is scheduled to be closed by the end of the year and this would be an expensive project. Also, this system has passed all inspections from Public Health, Environmental Health, Local Fire department and the Board of State and Community Corrections.*

**Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations. Please feel free to contact the Sheriff's Office if you should have any further questions.**

Sincerely,

  
**Bill Pooley**  
Sheriff-Coroner