

Tuolumne County  
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Heather Ryan  
Sr. Board Clerk of the  
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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE**

David Goldemberg, *First District*  
Kathleen K. Haff, *Fourth District*

Ryan Campbell, *Second District*

Daniel Anaiah Kirk, *Third District*  
Jaron E. Brandon, *Fifth District*

August 15, 2023

Judge of Superior Court  
Honorable Laura Krieg  
Tuolumne County Superior Court  
12855 Justice Center Drive  
Sonora, CA 95370

Re: Response to Grand Jury Report – **Dambacher Detention Center Facility and Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility dated June 30, 2023**

The following is submitted in response to the 2022-23 Grand Jury Report as it pertains to the Dambacher Detention Center and the Mother Lode Regional Juvenile Detention Facility (MLRJDF). The Tuolumne County Board of Supervisors, Sheriff-Coroner, and the Chief Probation Officer wish to extend their gratitude to the Grand Jury members for their time in preparing the final Grand Jury reports. Please accept this as a joint response.

**Finding #1.** The Jail is currently short-staffed. Not all programs are functioning at their full capacity.

**Response: Agree.** In January of this year, to combat the staffing shortages, the County instituted a pay increase along with a signing bonus. This has increased our ability to recruit and retain staff. Since the implementation of the pay increase and the signing bonus. We have hired 10 Custody Deputies and have an additional 2 conditional job offers out. The increase in staffing will allow the facility to rebuild programs.

**Finding #2.** Due to the staffing shortage, there are no longer inmate work crews. The work program contributed to a significant reduction in recidivism and tracking shows 72% of those enrolled in work programs don't come back.

**Response: Agree.** Referencing back to the pay increase, and bonuses, (which have allowed for an increase in staffing) our increase in staffing will allow the facility to rebuild programs and should allow for inmate work crews by the end of this year.

**Finding #3.** The report requests a required response from the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff-Coroner. However, there is no finding #3 for the County to respond to.

**Finding #4.** It is the shared opinion of the Grand Jury that the Tuolumne County Juvenile Detention Facility is a valuable and effective institution that is staffed by qualified and competent personnel. It

was evident that staff are dedicated to helping the Youth exit the system successfully and build skills needed for successful lives outside the system.

**Response: Agree.** We believe the MLRJDF is a model detention facility for youth within the State, and a significant component of our success is due to the dedication, competence, and perseverance of our facility staff. This is outside the purview of the Sheriff's Office.

**Finding #5.** The detention center also benefits on a grand scale from its indispensable volunteer workforce.

**Response: Agree.** The MLRJDF is enriched by the numerous volunteers who selflessly give back to the community by assisting our youth while they are at a critical juncture in their lives. We are grateful to live in a community with so many volunteers supporting the rehabilitative efforts of our youth. This is outside the purview of the Sheriff's Office.

**Recommendation #1.** Continue the dialogue with the Board of Supervisors to ensure competitive wages and benefits for the staff. [F1-F2]

**Response: Agree.** The Board of Supervisors made compensation adjustments for public safety a priority with this year's salary adjustments. The County has made great strides in ensuring staffing. The Sheriff's Office will continue the dialogue to ensure continued competitive wages for staff.

**Recommendation #2.** Share updates proactively with the local press and social media to help increase awareness of the benefits the institution provides to the community. [F3]

**Response: Agree.** We will continue to use our social media platforms to increase awareness and actively push to expand our outreach on those platforms.

We appreciate the opportunity to respond to the above findings and recommendations.

Sincerely,



Kathleen K. Haff,  
Board Chair



Bill Pooley (Aug 17, 2023 15:39 PDT)

Bill Pooley,  
Sheriff-Coroner



Daniel Hawks,  
Chief Probation Officer

ATTEST:



Heather Ryan, Sr. Board Clerk  
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

I hereby certify that according to the provisions of Government Code Section 25103, delivery of this document has been made.

Heather Ryan  
Sr. Board Clerk

By: 