

## **Custodial Facility Tours**

### **Mt. Bullion Conservation Camp (CC#39)**

On April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Civil Grand Jury made its annual inspection of the Mt. Bullion (CC#39) Conservation Camp. The Mt. Bullion Conservation Camp is a minimum-security detention center jointly operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the California Forestry and Fire Prevention. There are currently 32 such minimum correctional camps in California. The facility has been operating since 1957 and the facility changed from one that housed juveniles to only adults in 2004. The camp's primary mission is to provide incarcerated hand crews to support local, state, and federal agencies in their response to emergencies such as fires and floods. Camp participants also complete community service and conservation projects year-round. Current inmate population is 62.

The staff were stellar regarding their management of the inmates and the facilities. The MCCGJ found that the facility is well organized and is in good condition with just some wear and tear on the existing buildings from the length of service. One large dormitory room houses all the inmates. Each inmate is supplied with a cot and a storage locker. The mess hall and cooking facilities look well-organized and well-maintained. Minor medical needs are met onsite. Those with illnesses requiring more extensive treatment are transferred to the Jamestown facility.

Inmates have the option to be trained for fighting wildfires and help the local CalFire Unit. They can also receive training in working with chainsaws and other outdoor equipment, which is helpful for keeping the growth of weeds and brush under control. Inmates have a variety of facilities for amusement, entertainment, and creative pursuits available to them.

If an inmate is sent to CC#39 but has family in the southern part of the state, there are procedures in place for qualifying the inmate for a transfer to a facility closer to their family. An open-air area with exercise and weight training equipment is open daily from 5 AM to 10 PM. The MCCGJ observed the kitchen and cafeteria area to be very clean and structured for easy clean-up. Inmates that have demonstrated good behavior over a period of time help run the camp. They generally work in the kitchen and laundry. Despite the minimal funding the camp is functioning at a high level.

The 2023-24 Mariposa Civil Grand Jury was charged with the oversight of the Mt. Bullion Conservation Camp #39. Civil Grand Jury oversight of the camp is required by California Penal Code. The Mariposa Civil Grand Jury performed a general overview of the facility and found no deficiencies in the care and maintenance of Camp #39. Therefore, no recommendations are made regarding the facility.

### **Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility**

On February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Grand Jury went on its yearly visit to the Mariposa Adult Detention Facility. The current facility was opened in March of 1995 and is located on Hwy 49N about a mile north of the town of Mariposa. It has the capacity to house 58 inmates and is currently at about half capacity. The employees were efficient, knowledgeable, and very professional. Although the facility and the staff are consistently dealing with several financial budget cuts, the County incarceration facility is being run in a safe and secure manner. The staff are upbeat and vigilant in their jobs, and our County has every reason to feel confident and secure regarding the well-being of its inmates.

The HVAC system continues to be an area of concern for inmates, staff, and visitors. This is a costly repair and has been delayed due to the County budget cuts. As a result, staff and inmates experience discomfort with indoor temperatures in the winter cold and summer heat. Additionally, there are several areas where ceiling tiles have been removed for immediate repairs and have yet to be replaced. It is fair to say the staff may have some discomfort with their cramped office space. For example, office space for one of the medical staff is located in the shared break room. Overall, the facility is clean and secure. The detention center needs some attention when it comes to space allocation and timely maintenance.

| FINDINGS        |                                                                                                                                                                          | RESPONSES |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| F1              | The detention center HVAC system poses a challenge to detention center management, contributing to uncomfortable environmental exposure for inmates, staff and visitors. |           |
| F2              | Available administration office space to staff ratio is small, creating cramped and shared quarters for staff.                                                           |           |
| RECOMMENDATIONS |                                                                                                                                                                          | RESPONSES |
| R1              | Replace the HVAC system in all areas that are necessary as soon as possible.                                                                                             |           |
| R2              | Continue to investigate and pursue ways of maximizing shared staff space while maintaining professional best practice.                                                   |           |

The following governing boards are required to respond within 90 days pursuant to Penal Code sections §933 and §933.05:

Board of Supervisors: F1, F2, R1, R2

The following elected county official is required to respond with 60 days:

County Sheriff: F1, F2, R1, R2

Per Penal Code §933.05(a)(1) and (2), responses must include acceptance, refutation, and/or clarification of the findings, and a commitment to implementing the recommendations, as appropriate, per Penal Code §933.5(b)(1)(2)(3) and (4).

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.