

Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility Tour

On October 19th, 2024, members of the 2024/2025 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury went on the yearly visit to the Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility.

About the facility: The current facility was built in 1995 and is located at 5379 Highway 49 North, with a capacity of about 60 incarcerated persons. The Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility is a Type II facility operated in accordance with applicable federal and state law. The county jail is a division of the Mariposa County Sheriff's office and is staffed 24 hours a day. The County Jail must comply with Title 15 and Title 24 requirements, which address the minimum standards for local detention facilities. Title 15 requirements regulate the conditions of confinement as they relate to food, medical treatment, housing, and discipline, while Title 24 regulates standards for design and construction of jail buildings.

About the visit: During the annual adult detention facility tour, the Mariposa Grand Jury was introduced to all areas of the jail and many of the day-to-day operations. Areas of concern outlined during the visit were in regard to the pending HVAC project, the shortage of deputies and the increasing duties for staff due to ever changing legislation and requirements, and the evolving needs of the incarcerated population. For instance, The Mariposa County Adult Detention facility is regularly housing incarcerated persons who have been sentenced to lengthy prison sentences for the entirety of their sentence. This responsibility has been shifted to county jails from the state prisons due to legislative changes in years past. Additionally, over the past few years, it has been reported that a significant amount of the incarcerated persons are suffering from poor mental health. On average, it is estimated that 10%-20% of the detention facility population consists of people who are mentally ill. These persons require more attention from staff and are often in custody for many months, if not years, while their competency is evaluated in court prior to trial. Custodial staff are responsible for the care and safety of all individuals housed, which includes regular transportation to medical appointments, court, and other outside requirements. Every time a deputy has to leave the facility, which is daily, and often, multiple times in a day, it deprives the facility of one less deputy on site. The Mariposa Adult Detention Facility current staffing includes one captain, four custodial sergeants, seven male custodial deputies, and seven female custodial deputies.

A typical shift has 3-4 custodial deputies assigned and when one has to leave for a transport, the safety of staff in the facility is diminished. Aside from safety concerns, additional deputy allocations will allow better preparation for attrition from retirement and other factors that have caused vacancies in recent years. Fatigue and burnout are real concerns when trying to retain the current staff as sometimes staff forgoes days off and works long shifts to account for absences. At the time of this report, the adult detention facility staff had used 1616 overtime hours, while during the previous complete fiscal year (July 1-June 30) the county jail staff utilized 4322 overtime hours. Due to unforeseen circumstances and the nature of the business, it is believed that there will always be a need for overtime hours. However, it is strongly recommended that additional deputy allocations are hired and available, in order to help alleviate the high amount of overtime hours, reduce turnover and staff burnout, and to keep a thriving organizational culture, which is necessary for the successful, safe and professional management of the facility and the incarcerated population.

On July 15, 2023, a catastrophic failure of the existing HVAC occurred and as noted in MCCGJ's 2023/2024 reports, it presented area of concern for inmates, staff, and visitors. The last update we received from Mariposa County Public Works is that the HVAC repair project is in the final design phase. Construction documents are expected to be circulated in the next few months and the estimated time of completion for the project is this calendar year.

Commendations: The 2024/2025 Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury commends the current staff of the Mariposa County Adult Detention facility in respect to the following:

- Individual cells, where the conditions were clean, safe, comfortable and personal items allowed pertaining all local, state and federal regulations.
- Facility grounds were clean, secure and well maintained.
- The interior and exterior of the building were well maintained without any hazardous items observed.
- The orientation operations of inmates, where grievance procedures were posted and communicated to all inmates.
- The clean appearance of inmates and inmates' clothing good repair.

- The clean and organized kitchen area and serving inmates meals meeting nutritional guidelines while promoting better health and accommodating religious and vegetarian dietary restrictions.
- The programs offered to inmates include religious services, access to daily healthcare, mental health, indoor and outdoor exercising areas, vocational studies, and work programs.
- Passing local fire, medical/mental health, environmental health, nutritional health and corrections standards authority inspections, including the most recent BSCC (Board of State and Community Corrections) Title 15 Section 1056 Use of Sobering Cell inspection dated January 15, 2025.
- Handling operations related to correspondence (ex. Incoming and outgoing mail) for inmates, visitations, use of tablets/phones, and grievances.
- The professionalism, dedication and expertise of all staff, for going above and beyond when facing challenges.

Findings		Responses
F1	The detention center HVAC repair project has not been completed, which continues to pose a challenge to detention center management, contributing to uncomfortable environmental exposure for inmates, staff and visitors.	
F2	There is a high amount of overtime working hours within the detention facility staffing, which is caused by increased job duties, increasing	

	demands of the incarcerated population and regulatory compliance.	
F3	Within the jail facility premises, placed outside of the main building, C-train type storage containers were installed, which allowed for the existing storage room (located inside the main building by the kitchen) to be converted into an office space. See exhibit A.	
Recommendations		Responses
R1	Complete the HVAC system repair project in all areas that are necessary as soon as possible.	
R2	Increase the detention facility's custodial staff by hiring additional personnel, in order to reduce the high amount of overtime hours within the department, and to minimize burnout and stress within the department.	
R3	No response is required.	

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 within 60 days:

County Sheriff: F1, F2, R1, R2

Per Penal Code §933.0S(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(6)(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.

Cited:

23/24 MCCGJ Final Report

July 2024 Mariposa County Sheriff's Office Organizational and Staffing Analysis

EXHIBIT A:



Image 1: Storage Containers at Mariposa Adult Detention Facility installed for the purpose of extra storage in order to maximize office space for jail staff inside the main building.