

reading materials that encourage both leisure and personal development. These privileges appear to reinforce the incentive structure that encourages rule compliance and personal responsibility.

Staff-inmate relations throughout the visit appeared professional and respectful, with staff emphasizing the importance of trust and accountability within the camp's lower-security environment. Facility buildings and infrastructure were observed to be in good condition despite the camp's scheduled closure in January 2026, and no operational or safety deficiencies were identified during the inspection. The primary concern expressed by staff was the impending closure itself, as the camp has operated for 22 years and its closure may reduce available low-security rehabilitation opportunities.

OBSERVATION OF NOVEMBER SPECIAL ELECTIONS

Members of the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury observed the November 4, 2025 Special Election. The jury's observation revealed a well-run and efficient process. The election was conducted by the Registrar of Voters alongside a unified team of eight employees, whose protocols and procedures were impressive and demonstrated a clear commitment to election integrity and operational efficiency.

MARIPOSA COUNTY ADULT DETENTION FACILITY

The current Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility officially opened its doors in March 1995, marking a significant transition in the county's approach to public safety and corrections. Designated as a Type II facility, it was built to house approximately 60 inmates, providing a larger environment

that allowed for the necessary segregation of male and female populations as well as varying inmate security levels.

In the decades since its opening, the facility has evolved to meet the complexities of modern California correctional law. This shift has required the jail to manage longer-term inmates and expand its medical and behavioral services to support a population with increasing mental health needs. The Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury conducts an annual inspection of the facility.

In December 2025, members of the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury conducted an on-site tour of the facility's daily operations, physical conditions, and the quality of inmate services. The staff exhibited a level of professional conduct and operational efficiency. However, the aging infrastructure, as repeatedly noted over the last 10 years of Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury reports requires a concerted plan for repair.

Observations recorded during the facility tour highlight significant issues regarding the condition of the roof and door-locking security. Chief among these physical concerns of the leaking roof that has plagued the building, potentially leading to long-term water damage and compromised infrastructure. Beyond the physical shell of the building, the grand jury identified critical vulnerabilities within the electronic door systems. The reoccurring malfunctions of these systems introduce a substantial layer of operational risk, as they are the primary mechanism for maintaining a secure and divided environment. Any failure of these components compromises the access control required by staff to ensure the safety of both the custodial personnel and the inmate population.

Despite these challenges, the facility is currently in a state of construction, as evidenced by the major Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) system upgrades underway at the time of the inspection. While these environmental improvements are a positive step

toward modernization, the need for a comprehensive plan for roof repair remains a high priority. Integrating a modernized interface is essential to resolve the ongoing door malfunctions and to bring the facility's technological infrastructure up to current security standards.

ID #	Findings	Recommendation
F1 / R1	F1: Roofing and Water Intrusion: The roof leaks directly over staff workstations. This poses a high risk of damaging computer systems and the electronic equipment. Numerous ceiling panels were missing across the facility, exposing the extent of water damage.	R1: The county needs to prioritize a plan to replace or substantially repair the roof to prevent further structural damage to the facility, prevent damage to electrical equipment, and to halt interior degradation.
F2 / R2	F2: Security and Safety Systems: The facility relies on an electronic door system. At the time of observation, there was no manual backup for a fail-safe mechanism.	R2: Door Fail-Safe: The implementation of a manual backup or fail-safe mechanism for the electronic door system.
F3 / R3	F3: It was reported to the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury that the facility was understaffed by two female employees. Administration noted that retaining female staff was a continuing	R3: Retention Strategy: The county should develop an incentive program to fill the vacancies and retain current correctional staff.

	challenge due to the demanding nature of the environment.	
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To maintain the integrity and impartiality of its findings, the Mariposa Civil Grand Jury adheres to strict ethical standards regarding potential conflicts of interest. Transparency is a cornerstone of the watchdog process; therefore, it is standard practice to include a formal recusal disclaimer in any report where a member's personal or professional background might create a perception of bias. This ensures to the public that the investigation was conducted solely by objective participants and the final recommendations are untainted by outside influence.

Three members of the Mariposa County Civil Grand Jury recused themselves from this investigation to avoid any perceived conflict of interest. These members were not present for any testimony or discussions regarding this matter.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES:

California Penal Code §919(b). Mandating the annual inquiry into the condition and management of public prisons within the county.

- California Code of Regulations, Title 15. Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities (Board of State and Community Corrections).
- California Code of Regulations, Title 24. California Building Standards Code (Part 1, Administrative; Part 2, Building).
- Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC). Biennial Inspection Report: Mariposa County Adult Detention Facility. (2025).