

Lassen County Grand Jury

2021-2022



FINAL REPORT

LASSEN SUPERIOR COURT

Mark Nareau
Presiding
Superior Court Judge



2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130
(530) 251-8205 Ext. 103

August 1, 2022

Clerk of the Court
Lassen County Superior Court
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

To the Clerk of the Court:

As Presiding Judge of the Lassen County Superior Court, I hereby instruct the Clerk to accept for filing the 2021-2022 Lassen County Grand Jury Final Report as presented to me the 22nd day of July 2022.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Nareau".

Mark Nareau
Presiding Judge
Lassen County Superior Court

MN:lab

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LASSEN COUNTY GRAND JURY

June 24, 2022

The Honorable Mark Nareau
Presiding Judge
Lassen County Superior Court
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Lassen County 2021 – 2022 Grand Jury Report

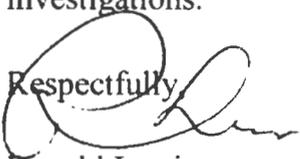
Dear Honorable Judge Nareau,

The Lassen County 2021 – 2022, Grand Jury was seriously affected this year due to COVID-19 and the local wildfires that affected Lassen County. The Grand Jury was off to a slow start and was never able to really recover. The number of Jurors to start was low and a couple of jurors resigned due to illness or personal reasons. This left the Grand Jury unable to have a quorum for many months at a time, making us unable to vote and even approve prior meeting minutes. Due to lack of a quorum, the Grand Jury was never able to vote on and approve investigations to be conducted by the Grand Jury. The Grand Jury was able to tour the California Correctional Center and High Desert State Prison.

I am proud of the group that persisted and pleased with what we accomplished considering the events and restrictions we had to deal with throughout our term. I want to thank each and every Grand Juror for their contribution to this year's final report. I would especially like to thank Tamia Sanders, Foreperson Pro-Tem; Dawn Tibbetts, Secretary; Sheryle Thornton, Secretary Pro-Tem; and Bonnie Cole, Financial Officer. As this year's Foreperson, it has been an honor to serve alongside each juror. I would also like to thank Lori Barron, Jury Commissioner for supporting the Lassen County Grand Jury and a special thanks to Jennifer Zarlengo from the County of Lassen for all her support, help and patience with the Grand Jury.

The members of the Lassen County 2021 – 2022, Grand Jury are pleased to submit our final report to you and the citizens of Lassen County, pursuant to California Penal Code §933(a). This report is a product of individuals who devoted time and effort in their commitment to this critical function of government oversight by its citizens. It was our goal to be fair, accurate, and thorough in our investigations.

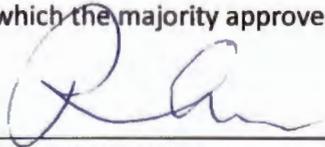
Respectfully,


Ronald Lewis
Foreperson

LASSEN COUNTY GRAND JURY MEMBERS
DISCLAIMER AND SIGNATURES

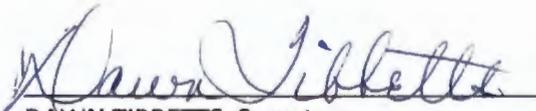
The Grand Jury recognizes that the conflict of interest may arise in the course of its investigations. In such instances the juror may ask to be recused from all aspects of an investigation. Those members may choose not to investigate, attend interviews and deliberations, or assist in the making and acceptance of a final report that may result in the investigation.

Therefore, whenever the perception of a conflict of interest existed on the part of a member of the 2021-2022 Lassen County Grand Jury, that member abstained from any investigation involving such a conflict and from voting on acceptance or rejection of any related subject. By signing this final report, I approve it even though I may have recused myself from, or voted against, certain individual reports, which the majority approved.

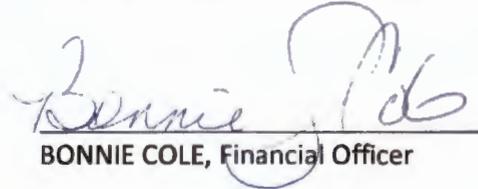


RONALD LEWIS, Foreperson

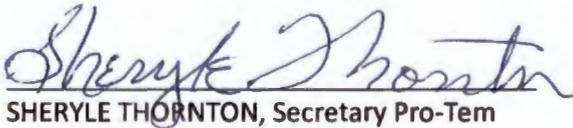
TAMIA SANDERS, Foreperson Pro-Tem



DAWN TIBBETTS, Secretary



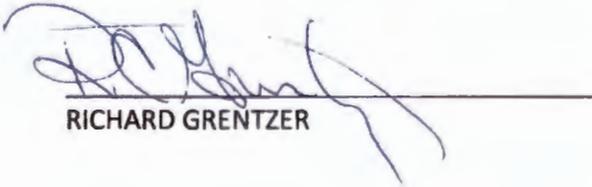
BONNIE COLE, Financial Officer



SHERYLE THORNTON, Secretary Pro-Tem



MICHAEL COTTER



RICHARD GRENTZER



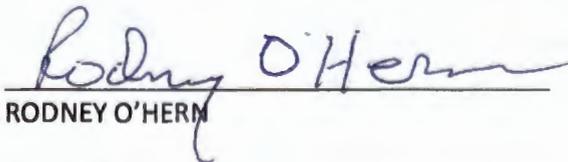
RICHARD KAPUSCHINSKY



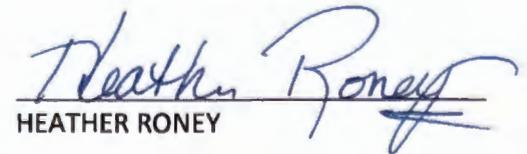
FRANK MARTINS



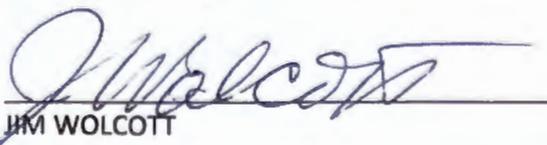
STEVEN MIDDLETON



RODNEY O'HERN



HEATHER RONEY



JIM WOLCOTT



JESSE CLAYPOOL

Members of the 2021-2022 Lassen County Grand Jury

Ronald Lewis, Foreperson

Tamia Sanders, Foreperson Pro-Tem

Dawn Tibbetts, Secretary

Sheryle Thornton, Secretary Pro-Tem

Bonnie Cole, Financial Officer

Michael Cotter

Richard Grentzer

Richard Kapuschinsky

Frank Martins

Steven Middleton

Rodney O'Hern

Heather Roney

Jim Wolcott

Jesse Claypool

California Grand Juries

The California Penal Code describes the organization, powers, duties, and general structure of the Grand Jury. All of California's 58 counties are required to have Grand Juries.

The major function of a Civil Grand Jury is to oversee all aspects of the legislative and administrative departments that make up county, city and special district governments. It has the power to examine and guarantee that those who are given the responsibility of managing these offices are: truthful, dedicated, and sincere in their efforts to service the public. There are 42 states that have some form of Grand Jury, but California and Nevada mandate the impaneling of a Grand Jury each year. The Lassen County Grand Jury is a judicial body of citizens impaneled to watch over the citizens of Lassen County.

Grand Jurors are forbidden by law to disclose any evidence acquired during investigation or disclose the name of complainants or witnesses.

After investigations are completed, it is the responsibility of the Grand Jury to recommend changes that should be made in order to increase efficiency and improve services to the general public. Special commendations may also be made to departments or agencies for excellence in management. The reports that are release have been collected, voted on by at least 12 members, and the results carefully edited by the editing committee for a Final Report to be release to the public.

The Final Lassen County Grand Jury Report is distributed as the Distribution List indicates on the following page. Both reports and responses are available on the Superior Court website at www.lassencourt.ca.gov and in the Jury Commissioner's office at Lassen Superior Court, 2610 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130. The telephone number is (530) 257-8205. Lassen County website, www.co.lassen.ca.us also contains a link to the Superior Court and Grand Jury reports.

Distribution List

Lassen County:

Superior Court Judge
Board of Supervisors
Treasurer/Tax Collector
District Attorney
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Lassen County Sherriff
Personnel and Risk Management
Lassen LAFCO

City of Susanville

City Council
City Administrative Officer

Corrections Facilities

California Correctional Center
High Desert State Prison
Federal Correctional Institution Herlong

Others

State of California Attorney General's Office
California Board of Accountancy
California Grand Juror' Association
Susanville District Library
Lassen Senior Services Center
Doyle Community Center
Westwood Nutrition Site
Bieber Library
lassennews.com (Lassen County Times Online)
KSUE/JDX
susanvillestuff.com
2021-2022 Grand Jurors
2020-2021 Grand Jurors

Responses to Grand Jury Reports

Summary of PC § 933.05

A compendium of all codes pertaining to Grand Jury was produced by the Governor's Office of Planning and Research. This document is available to Grand Juries through the Superior Court in respective counties. Since the compendium was assembled the following has become law.

Penal Code §933.05 provides for only two acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond with respect to the finding of a grand Jury report:

1. The respondent agrees with the finding.
2. The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding; *in which case the respondent shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.*

Penal Code §933.05 provides for only four acceptable responses with which agencies and/or departments (respondents) may respond with respect to the *recommendations* of a grand Jury report:

1. The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
2. The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
3. The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis, with a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency/department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. ***This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report.***
4. The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with a detailed explanation, therefore.

Response Procedure to Grand Jury Reports

Summary of PC §933.05

The governance of responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within 60 days, governing bodies (for example: The Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand Jury Foreperson, and the CEO's office.

Report Title: _____ **Report Date:** _____

Response by: _____ Title: _____

Finding

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the finding numbered:

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: _____ have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions)

Recommendations numbered: _____ require further analysis.
(Attached an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. The timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report).

Introduction

The Grand Jury is a constitutionally mandated judicial body charged to investigate civil matters, not criminal matters. The Grand Jury's responsibilities include investigating issues regarding city and county government as well as public agencies funded by the government and issuing reports and recommendations when appropriate.

All communications with the Grand Jury are confidential. Information provided to the Grand Jury to support a complaint is carefully reviewed to determine what further action, if any, is required. If it is determined that the matter is not within the investigative authority of the Grand Jury, no further action is taken. If the matter is within the legal scope of the Grand Jury's investigative powers and warrants further inquiry, the Grand Jury will contact and interview those individuals who may be able to provide additional information. During an investigation, all information and evidence will be considered, however, a review may not result in any action or report by the Grand Jury.

Each year the Grand Jury must inquire into the condition and management of all public prisons within the county. As required by law the 2021-2022 Grand Jury toured the California Correctional Center and High Desert State Prison. After comprehensive tours and discussion, the Grand Jury found that no recommendations were necessary. As a commendation each facility was clean and well maintained. The Grand Jury would like to acknowledge the transparency, professionalism, and hospitality of Warden S. Perry, Warden (A) R. St. Andre, and all administrative staff. The Grand Jury enjoyed meeting, questions and watching presentations from the institutions staff whom were knowledgeable and proud to share their procedures, facility improvements, and the new and successful programs.

The Lassen County Grand Jury received written complaints during the 2021-2022 fiscal year. As the letters and formal complaints were received and presented to the full Grand Jury, careful consideration was given to the validity and content of each complaint. Each grievance was inspected and acted upon in a professional and conscientious manner.

The following Grand Jury Reports are based on interviews and information which was brought to the attention of, and investigated by, the Lassen County Grand Jury.

California Correctional Center

On Wednesday, June 20, 2022, the 2021-2022 Lassen County Grand Jury (LCGJ) toured the California Correctional Center (CCC) located near Susanville. CCC is currently housing 1786 inmates with 482 correctional officers and 220 non-custody employees. CCC has 71 correctional officer vacancies. After an initial briefing by Warden Suzanne M. Perry and administrative staff of CCC's mission, there was a question and answer session.

The warden and the administrative team strongly emphasized the importance of rehabilitation and re-entry programs for inmates housed in the facility. Though restricted by budget, they are trying to improve the areas that houses these programs.

The warden remained with the LCGJ throughout an extensive tour through housing Facilities B, and C, education, vocation, Antelope camp, Fire Department and Emergency Medical Department. CCC management staff were present and informed the Grand Jury of the mission of each facility in detail.

Summary:

CCC was constructed in 1963 as a minimum-security prison, which included Facilities A, B and M. In 1987 the prison was expanded to include Facility C, which houses level III inmates.

The primary mission of CCC is to receive, house, and train minimum custody inmates for placement into the 14 conservation camps located throughout Northern California.

Working collaboratively with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), these camps are strategically located throughout the north state to provide fire suppression, hand crews, as well as an organized labor force for public conservation projects and other emergency response needs of the State of California. Inmate fire crews provided 655,970 hours in firefighting and other emergency work, saving the taxpayers of California, and parts of Nevada, a projected savings of \$22,762,410.

Services provided through the conservation camp program saves taxpayers an average of over 80 million dollars per year. Work projects associated with conservation camps support municipal, county, state, and federal government agencies, including schools, parks, cemeteries, and public recreation areas.

Additionally, CCC provides meaningful work, training, educational, and substance abuse treatment programs for inmates who do not meet the criteria for assignment to a conservation camp. These alternative assignments include academic and vocational trade programs, facility maintenance jobs, food service positions, and other facility support assignments. CCC offers a wide assortment of positive Inmate Activity Group, family relations, including

numerous self-help improvement programs such as Literacy, Alternative to Violence, Substance Abuse Programs, Veteran's Affairs, Religious Services, and Recreation programs.

On April 13, 2021, without any advanced notification California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) announced the closure of CCC effective June 30, 2022. According to CDCR, California Penal Code Section 2067 provides guidance for determining which CDCR facilities to prioritize for closure. Factors include cost to operate at the capacity; workforce impacts; subpopulation and gender-specific housing needs; long-term investment in state-owned and operated correctional facilities, including previous investments; public safety and rehabilitation; and durability of the state's solution to prison overcrowding. Along with the above factors all California inmates in out-of-state contract correctional facilities should have been returned by Feb 2019 and the private in-state male contract correctional facilities that are primarily staffed by non-CDCR personnel shall be prioritized over other in-state contract correctional facilities.

CCC Fundraisers and Donations:

CCC has and continues to contribute to Lassen County by fundraisers which have generated over \$30,000 last year which was given to local charities. CCC has also conducted winter coats and clothing drives, backpack drives and donated to the community in other ways besides monetary.

2020-2021 projected costs for CCC:

The 2020-21 Budget: Effectively Managing State Prison Infrastructure dated Feb 28, 2020, issued by California Legislature Analyst's Office 12 of the state's 34 prisons were constructed between 1850 and 1960 and a recent study found at the state's 12 oldest prisons \$11 billion was recommended on over 150 infrastructure projects. The report also recommended closing two prisons instead of removing inmates from publicly operated prisons and only closing one prison. It is detailed in this report that, the recommendation goes against state law which requires all inmates be removed from privately operated contract prisons. It recommended that CDCR rank prisons for closure based on cost avoidance, operational needs and their ability to serve inmates. According to the report CCC had an estimated 10 infrastructure projects needed at an estimated cost of \$503 million ranking CCC as 11th in cost of projects with 5 prisons needing more than \$1 billion in repairs each.

2021-22 Budget:

Prison Maintenance and Repairs Proposals dated February 2, 2021, states that inmate population decline expected to reduce number of prisons needed. The report notes that due to CDCR response to Covid-19 inmate population declined 23 percent from Feb 2020, to Jan 2021. CDCR expects population to remain low after the pandemic due to the state's recent policy changes. This report stated that based on initial review they found that California Rehabilitation Center, California Men's Colony, San Quentin State Prison and the Correctional Training Facility appeared to be strong candidates for

closure, primarily because they all have high estimated repair and/or operational costs relative to their inmate capacity. According to CDCR's Master Plan Annual Report for Calendar Year 2020, submitted on Jan 2021, the state has spent over 64 million dollars on improvement at CCC last year. The report listed the following active projects: Health Care Facility Improvement Program which was 96% complete with a cost of \$33,371,000, Health Care Facility Improvement Project-Central Health Services Building Renovation which was 5% complete with a cost of \$8,069,000, Arnold Unit and CC #25 Antelope Camp Kitchen/Dining Facility Replacements completed Dec 2020, with a cost of \$22,204,000, Replace Roof-Administration and Chapel, which was completed Dec 2020, with a cost of \$982,100. Proposed projects which include no status or obligation of funds totaled \$7,050,960.

Lassen County had an economic impact report prepared by the Center for Economic Development at California State University, Chico because either the state has not completed one or has not shared it with the county. This report showed CCC has a total impact of \$120.89 million on gross domestic product within the county.

The 2021-2022, LCGJ did inquire about any updates on the closure of CCC this June 2022. The LCGJ was told by the warden that the closure is in litigation and with the political ramifications she and her staff could not talk about it with us. The warden is very hopeful they will not close.

The LCGJ was escorted around both B and C facilities. The facilities are well kept and the pride from staff and inmates was well received. Facility B is dormitory housing. The dorms have a cooling system. While on the tour inmates expressed how much the cooling system is appreciated after conducting firefighting training all day.

The LCGJ was impressed with many of the daily operations of education, which range from remedial education to associate degrees and several in-depth vocational programs. In the past, inmates that were assigned to fire camps did not have access to the education system provided at CCC. CCC has worked at great lengths to establish an education system accessible by the fire camps and is currently the only prison in the state that offers education services to camp inmates.

The LCGJ toured Antelope Camp and the Fire Department. These facilities provide many valuable services to the institution and to the county. The camp provides inmate hand crews for fire suppression, emergency services and community projects. In October 2020, CDCR announced the closure of eight of the state's 43 conservation camps. Four of these camps fall under CCC. Chamberlain Creek Conservation Camp in Fort Bragg, CA, Devil's Garden Conservation Camp in Alturas, CA, High Rock Conservation Camp in Weott, CA, and Valley View Conservation Camp in Elk Creek, CA, were closed completely by December 2020. Cal Fire is attempting to replace the inmate fire crew with Cal Fire employees. It was estimated that it takes approximately forty (40) new employees to replace a fourteen (14) man inmate crew. At Antelope Camp which is located on the grounds of CCC in the past the camp had 5 crews but currently only has 2 crews. Fire seasons in the past in California and the anticipation of another bad fire

year the draw downs of the Conservation Camps is especially concerning to the Grand Jury. Lassen County had one of the largest fires in 2021 (Dixie Fire) with an estimated 963,309 acres burnt.

During the 2021-2022, fiscal year, it is estimated that the northern conservation camps, through conservation and work projects provided the local communities with 333,700 work hours to local, state and federal government agencies. In addition to project and conservation work, the inmate fire crews provided 655,970 hours in firefighting and other emergency work. It is estimated through the emergency program provided the taxpayers of California and parts of Nevada, a projected savings of over \$22,762,410.

The Antelope Camp provided 7,296 hours in community service projects that included cleanup and maintenance. They are as follows:

- Local schools (Fort Sage, Schaffer, Janesville, Richmond, Johnsonville)
- Local Cemetery's (Taylorsville, Janesville, Westwood, Diamond Crest)
- Lassen Community College
- Ronald McDonald House
- Little League Fields
- Lassen County Fairgrounds
- Various Vegetation Management Projects
- Various Fire Council Projects (Fire Prevention)
- Snow Removal (Fire hydrants)

The Fire Department is one of two paid fire departments in Lassen County. They provide mutual aid to 17 volunteer fire districts covering approximately 4,750 square miles.

Included on the tour was the "Pups on Parole" program. There were 3 dogs at the Fire House being trained for adoption. There have been 689 dogs adopted since June 21, 2007.

Antelope Camp and the Fire Department have a long history of providing mutual aid to the residences of Lassen County and is relied on to respond promptly and provide additional staffing when needed.

Conclusion:

Each facility visited by the LCGJ was professional, clean, and well run. Financially CCC is Operating in the black. No discrepancies were noted. The Grand Jury would like to acknowledge the hospitality, patience, and professionalism, of the warden and staff during our visit. The staff at the institution were warm and welcoming. All inmates that were encountered by the LCGJ spoke highly about the prison and the staff.

After having toured the CCC facility, the LCGJ feels it would be a great injustice and have a devastating effect on the community of Lassen County for CCC to be closed in this highly fire prone area. The community has become very dependent on this facility when a fire or any emergency e.g., floods, etc., occur in the area knowing we have the support of these professionally trained fire fighters to keep the community safe. The LCGJ feels

devastation in the area could be much worse if this community had to wait for support from another outlying area. As we have found in the past, it takes an extended period of time to get fire support into the area from other support areas. The presence of CalFire on any emergency site gives this community the confidence needed, as we are located in a vulnerable out-of-the-way area.

HIGH DESERT STATE PRISON

On Wednesday, May 25, 2022, the 2021-2022 Lassen County Grand Jury (LCGJ) toured High Desert State Prison (HDSP) located near Susanville. HDSP currently housing 2,295 inmates 877 Correctional Officers and 569 non-custody employees. The LCGJ were greeted by Warden Rob St. Andre, Warden (A), Kim Thornton, Chief Deputy Warden (A), and management staff of HDSP for a briefing, question and answer session.

HDSP was built in August of 1995 on 475 acres. HDSP designed capacity is 2,259 and is currently housing 2,295. HDSP run on an annual budget of \$159.8 million. Health care runs on a budget of \$44.2 million.

HDSP houses minimum support security (level I) offenders who perform job duties in various areas of the institution outside the secure perimeter, such as the ware house, garage, personnel kitchen, etc., medium security (level III) and sensitive needs high security (level IV). HDSP also has an Administrative Segregation unit which house offenders with safety concerns or that may need a higher level of security.

Currently HDSP just implemented a new hiring program called; Jump Start Program. It is a fast track hiring procedure to jump start the process by conducting the health/exercise portion and the application. The process takes approximately 6 months start to finish.

Mission Statement:

The mission of HDSP is to protect the public and community. To provide the offenders health care with licensed medical, dental and mental health professionals. HDSP offices rehabilitative tools to effect change of culture and to inspire the offenders to self-rehabilitate by educational and vocational opportunities, re-entry services, inmate activity group programs, religious services, recreational activities, and in hope to reduce recidivism.

Integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program:

HDSP has an integrated Substance Use Disorder Treatment (ISUDT) program. ISUDT is an in-depth comprehensive approach to treating substance abuse and so much more. This program is taught by Correctional Counselors who conduct group therapy sessions. The ISUDT program provides insight into a patient's recovery, assist with developing relapse-prevention plans, and provide counseling. This teaches job skills, and encourages education. The goal is to lessen the recidivism rate.

Education Department:

The Education department provides literacy training, mandated by SB-949. HDSP offers academic education for the offender's population. Academic classes provide instruction to upgrade math and

reading skills, with an ultimate goal of earning a GED or high school diploma. HDSP also offers an opportunity to attend college courses to earn an associate's degree, provided by in the classroom instructors from local colleges. HDSP also provides recreational and library services to the institution population.

Vocational Department:

The vocational department provides work-training for eligible offenders. This department gives the offender skills to utilize upon release. The vocational training programs, providing hands-on training which will assist them in the job market. The offenders can learn about building maintenance to include framing, electrical wiring, and overall construction. Also available are computer skills and a library for legal knowledge and research. Sadly other programs have been cut out of the curriculum such as welding, Auto body, and numerous programs.

Re-entry/Inmate Activity Groups/Religious Services:

HDSP offers Re-Entry programs such as Substance Abuse, Criminal Thinking, Anger Management, and Family Relationships. Inmate Activity Groups such as Veterans Group, Getting Out By Going In, Arts in Corrections, Creative Conflict Resolutions, Marin Shakespeare, Positive Parenting, Prison Fellowship, Place for Grace, and Life Choices just to name a few.

Health Care:

HDSP's Correction Treatment Center (CTC) is a licensed hospital with 32 beds. The CTC provides sub-acute medical services, emergency dental services, and mental health crisis bed level of care. HDSP has the ability to treat up to 10 patients with need of respiratory isolation, up to 10 patients in mental health crisis and up to 12 patients with short to long-term medical cases. The CTC has a fully equipped and staffed Emergency Room for treatment and stabilization of patients prior to transfer to the local hospital, if needed.

The CTC has negative pressure patient rooms, which has been useful during COVID pandemic. Currently the COVID cases have subsided. HDSP has 3 COVID cases with 75% of the offenders vaccinated. HDSP has strict testing requirements for staff and mask requirements. HDSP has strict testing requirements for staff and mask requirements. HDSP proved to be resilient during the pandemic and were quickly able to adjust to the ever changing guidance/requirements of COVID.

Crisis Response Team:

In 1983 the Crisis Response Team (CRT) was formed by the California Governor in response to the New Mexico State Prison riot. The primary mission is hostage rescue. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation currently operates 19 CRT's throughout the State of California. Team 1 is comprised of members from HDSP and CCC located in Susanville, CA. The CRT also conducts operations in escaped inmate, high risk warrant service, barricaded subjects,

rural operations and narcotic eradication, as well as supporting local law enforcement in mutual aid. The CRC was deployed to assist the United States Marshal Services for the apprehension of a triple homicide suspect Shane Miller in Humboldt County, CA.

In September 2014 HDSP CRT participated in the Homeland Security Evaluation Exercise Program (HDSEEP) known as Urban Shield. This event is a full-scale regional preparedness exercise assessing the overall Bay Area Urban Areas Security Initiative (UASI) Region's response capabilities related to multi-discipline planning, policies, procedures, organization, equipment and training. Teams from other nations along with the United States Military and full time Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) teams were present. HDSP ranked above 14 other full time SWAT teams based on their performance and ability to respond to 34 scenarios in 48 hours.

HDSP currently has two Canine Officer Handlers with their partners Lily and Shadow. Lily and Shadow are trained in passive drug detection. Both have proven their worth by keeping narcotics out of the institution. The HDSP K-9 unit is also utilized often with other agencies in the community.

Investigative Services Unit:

The Investigative Services Unit (ISU) primary function is to eliminate the use, possession, manufacture and distribution of illicit drugs within the institution. They accomplish this by monitoring offender activities on all the facilities throughout the institution. ISU gathers intelligence through confidential informants, utilizing the surveillance equipment within the visiting areas and monitoring phone calls with the Inmate Monitoring and Recording System. ISU conducts and controls investigations concerning violations of California Law and/or misconduct involving inmates, contract employees, non-custody staff and visitors of HDSP. The ISU responds to incidents and processes crime scenes. This includes but is not limited to photography and collection of evidence. Responsible for maintaining a Substance Abuse Control Program (random drug testing) for the offender population with a history of substance abuse. ISU also implements random drug testing for employees who are required to possess a commercial driver's license and CDCR Bargaining Unit 6 employees. ISU provides assistance to the Institutional Gang Investigator with validation of security threat group member and associates. Functions as liaison with other law enforcement agencies. ISU is responsible for the safety and security of the institutional staff and the offender population.

Conclusion:

The LCGJ was very impressed with the overall cleanliness and organization of the prison. Both custody and non-custody staff provided open and candid responses to our inquiries and are to be acknowledged of the job they do in a highly stressful and confined setting with many high security and sensitive needs offenders. The LCGJ is most appreciative for the hospitality extended by Rob St Andre, Warden (A) and staff.

Each facility visited by the LCGJ was clean, and well maintained. LCGJ would like to acknowledge the transparency, professionalism, and hospitality of the warden and staff during our

tour. The offender population the LCGJ encountered with spoke highly of the staff and the prison. HDSP should be very proud if all the programs, services and activities that are provided, not only to the offender population, but to the community with donations to the local non-profit organizations raised with fundraisers.

The decision to possibly close California Correctional Center (CCC) has a direct impact on HDSP. The isolated and rural setting of HDSP has resulted in fewer staff available that in more populated areas. Staffing levels were already low and have now compounded by the proposed closing of CCC.

Appendix

Responses to Prior Year's Report

Included in the appendix are the response to the 2020-2021, Grand Jury Report, submitted exactly as they were received. It is important that citizens are aware of the reactions to the recommendations, and any positive changes implemented as a result of the Grand Jury's efforts.



City of Susanville

(530) 257-1000 • 66 North Lassen Street • Susanville, CA 96130-3904

MRN ✓

March 29, 2022

RECEIVED

APR 01 2022

Clerk of the Superior Court
County of Lassen

By _____, Deputy Clerk

The Honorable Tony Mallery
Presiding Judge, Lassen Superior Court
2610 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Judge Mallery,

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933(c), please accept the City of Susanville's attached response to the 2020-2021 Lassen County Grand Jury Report.

The City of Susanville understands and appreciates the work of the Lassen County Grand Jury and wishes to express its respect for the role of the Grand Jury as a judicial body charged to investigate issues regarding governmental bodies.

The City of Susanville agreed to four of the findings within the Grand Jury Report and has implemented three of those recommendations. The final recommendation that has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, as the City of Susanville endeavors to develop a Human Capital Strategic Plan by the end of this calendar year (2022). The city has, however, made progress over the past year in developing core strategic goals for the City of Susanville and has implemented a Reorganization Plan to address the span of control deficiencies experienced in the past. This Reorganization Plan improves the organizational structure for improved efficiency and succession planning.

Respectfully,

Dan Newton
City Administrator

Mendy Schuster
Mayor
Brian Moore
Mayor pro tem

Councilmembers:
Quincy McCourt
Kevin Stafford
Thomas Herrera

www.cityofsusanville.org

RESPONSE PROCEDURE TO GRAND JURY REPORTS

SUMMARY OF PC §933.05

The governance of responses to Grand Jury Final Report is contained in Penal Code §933 and §933.05. Responses must be submitted within 60 or 90 days. Elected officials must respond within 60 days, governing bodies (for example: The Board of Supervisors) must respond within 90 days. Please submit all responses in writing and digital format to the Presiding Judge, the Grand Jury Foreperson, and the CEO's office.

Report Title: City of Susanville Grand Jury Response **Report Date** 3/29/2022

Response by: Dan Newton **Title:** City Administrator

Findings

I (we) agree with the findings numbered:

F1, F2, F3, F4

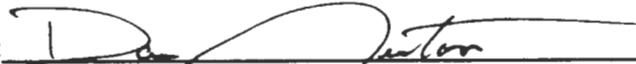
I (we) disagree wholly or partially with the findings numbered:

Recommendations

Recommendations numbered: R1, R2, R3 have been implemented.
(Attach a summary describing the implemented actions.)

Recommendations numbered: R4 require further analysis.
(Attach an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer and/or director of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed; including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the Grand Jury Report).

Recommendations numbered: _____ will not be implemented because they are not warranted and/or are not reasonable. (Attach an explanation.)

Date: 3/29/2022 Signed: 

Total number of pages attached: 2

City of Susanville Hiring Practices – City Administrator

Findings:

The Grand Jury concluded:

F1. The City actively recruited for the City Administrator position, made a selection, and the applicant ultimately declined the position. The City followed its policies and procedures in the recruitment efforts of the City Administrator position.

City Council agrees with the finding.

F2. The appointment of Mr. Jones by the City Council was advantageous to the City and resulted in a cost savings to the City but ultimately combining two high level managerial positions into one does not allow either position to reach its full potential.

City Council agrees with the finding.

F3. It is virtually impossible to dedicate the amount of time needed to manage both positions with only one person. This was evident by the Police Department having to assign the Police Captain with Police Chief duties.

City Council agrees with the finding.

F4. There is no long-term plan in place for position that will be vacated due to retirement, promotion, etc.

City Council agrees with the finding.

Recommendations:

R1. Actively recruit all authorized vacant positions until filled with a qualified applicant. Vacant positions should only be filled on an interim basis while the city is actively recruiting the vacant position.

This recommendation has been implemented. The city of Susanville actively recruited for City Administrator in April of 2021 and at the end of the recruitment selected a qualified applicant.

R2. Combine positions only if the position requires less than 100% of the duty time and the position that it is combined with also requires less than 100% of the duty time. This will create one position that can be competently performed with 100% of the duty time, resulting in one position being eliminated.

This recommendation has been implemented. The city of Susanville filled the Chief of Police position and the City Administrator position with two separate individuals. Police Chief was appointed in June 2021. City Administrator was appointed in August 2021.

R3. Employees should be employed in positions that match the job description. If a position is going to be combined with another position, job descriptions should be updated to reflect the correct duties of the position and the job should be recruited as such.

This recommendation has been implemented. Two separate job descriptions exist for both Chief of Police and City Administrator.

R4. Develop a Human Capital Strategic Plan for the City of Susanville to recruit, hire and retain qualified applicants and prioritize city funding to supplement shortfalls in the future.

This recommendation has not yet been implemented but will be in the future. The city will endeavor to develop a Human Capital Strategic Plan by January 1, 2023. The Susanville City Council has made progress over this past year in developing core strategic goals for the city. These are:

Improve Transparency.

Objective: Increase public engagement and build community trust.

Improve Main Street

Objective: Increase economic vitality and community pride.

Clean Up Susanville River:

Objective: Increase economic vitality and community pride. Address environmental concerns.

Code Enforcement:

Objective: Increase economic vitality and community pride. Address environmental concerns.

Additionally, on April 7, 2021, the city of Susanville approved a reorganization plan that should be fully implemented in January of 2022. The reorganization plan addresses current span of control deficiencies and creates an improved organizational structure for improved efficiency and succession planning.