

KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY



2017-2018 FINAL REPORT



Superior Court of the State of California
County of Kings

Robert Shane Burns
Superior Court Judge

June 4, 2018

To: Kings County Grand Jury and Affected Governmental
Agencies and Officers

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury has submitted the enclosed reports to the Presiding Judge and/or his designee of the Superior Court in accordance with Section 933 of the California Penal Code. The enclosed reports were submitted and are hereby accepted as the final reports of the Grand Jury concerning these areas of inquiry.

The agencies and elected officials who are affected by the enclosed reports are each hereby notified that they are required to comment to the Presiding Judge and/or his designee concerning these findings and recommendations as they pertain to the subject agency or elected official. Comments are due on behalf of each elected county officer or agency head that has responsibility for the agencies and functions described in these reports within 60 days from this date. The governing bodies of the public agencies affected by the reports have a 90-day time limit within which to submit comments pursuant to Penal Code Section 933 (c). In addition, a copy of each response shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency on whose behalf the response is made.

Those having questions concerning their responsibilities to respond to the Grand Jury's recommendations should contact County Counsel or their agency's general counsel.

The Judges of the Superior Court wish to express our sincere appreciation for the long hours of service given by members of the 2017-2018 Grand Jury, with special thanks to their Foreperson, Dick Hoffmaster. Selfless dedication to public service such as that demonstrated by this Grand Jury is crucial to the survival of the institution of the Grand Jury, which is itself an important part of the checks and balances necessary for our democracy to function.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Burns", written over a horizontal line.

Robert Shane Burns
Judge of the Superior Court

Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, CA 93230
(559) 582-1010 ext. 6002



**COUNTY OF KINGS
GRAND JURY**

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May 31, 2018

The Honorable Donna Tarter, Presiding Judge
Kings County Superior Court
1640 Kings County Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

On behalf of the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury, I am pleased to submit to you the 2017-2018 Grand Jury Final Report. Countless hours have been spent by the members of the Grand Jury in completing the work needed to issue each of the included documents. This work would not be possible if it were not for citizens willing to dedicate a full year of service to the grand jury process.

There are many people who help facilitate the work of any grand jury and Kings County is no different. A great deal of help and guidance was given by the Advising Judge, the Office of County Counsel, the Office of District Attorney, and the Office of Jury Commissioner. The Grand Jury extends a sincere "thank you" to these professionals.

I also extend a "thank you" to each member of the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury. Their effort on behalf of the citizens of Kings County is commendable. Their many hours of dedicated work is reflected in this final report. The work done by any grand jury is dependent on the individual members both in committee and in full body as well as to the committee chairs who coordinate the work of each committee.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson

**THE HONORABLE SUPERIOR COURT JUDGES
and the
2017 – 2018 KINGS COUNTY GRAND JURY**



JUDGE Valerie Chrissakis	JUDGE Robert S. Burns	JUDGE Donna Tarter	JUDGE Michael Reinherth	JUDGE Thomas DeSantos	JUDGE Jennifer Giuliani	COMMISSIONER Julienne Rynda
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JoAnn Hawkins	Arnold Garza	Larry McKillip <i>Committee Chair</i>	Katherine Campbell	Dennis Meeks <i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Cheryl Rocha <i>Recording Secretary Historian</i>
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Sid Craighead <i>Committee Chair</i>	Garry Curtis <i>Sgt. at Arms</i>	Jim Marx	Thomas Atwood	Mike Mathis <i>Committee Chair</i>	Tony Barba	Ronney Wong <i>Treasurer</i>	Dick Hoffmaster <i>Foreperson</i>	Raymond Elizondo <i>Pro Tem</i>
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Not Photographed - Wendy Welsh (*Social Chairperson*), Karen Ormsby (*Snack Master*), Catherine Willis

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GRAND JURY MEMBERS

Dick Hoffmaster	Foreperson
Raymond Elizondo	Foreperson Pro Tem
Cheryl Rocha	Recording Secretary
Ronney Wong	Treasurer
Dennis Meeks	Corresponding Secretary
Garry Curtis	Sergeant of Arms, Chairperson, Local Government
Karen Ormsby	Snackmaster
Wendy Welsh	Social Chairperson
Sid Craighead	Chairperson, Health and Education
Larry McKillip	Chairperson, Law and Public Safety
Mike Mathis	Chairperson, County Government
Thomas Atwood	
Anthony Barba	
Kathie Campbell	
Arnold Garza	
JoAnn Hawkins	
Jim Marx	



CATHERINE SPANN WILLIS
September 8, 1961 – August 28, 2017

Catherine was an admired and respected member of the
2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury.



*THOMAS STANLEY TREES, JR.
December 25, 1947 – March 10, 2018*

*Tom was an admired and respected member
of the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury*

GRAND JURY

The Kings County Grand Jury consists of 19 19 qualified county citizens chosen by lottery from a list of 30, prepared by the Presiding Judge of the Superior court. The Judge may reappoint as many as ten jurors from the sitting Jury, but no one can serve more than two consecutive terms. The Judge chooses the Grand Jury Foreperson.

PUBLIC MEETINGS ATTENDED

A MAJOR FUNCTION OF THE Kings County Grand Jury is to serve as a “watchdog” of the county, City Governments and Special District operations. In order to accomplish this Grand Jury members attend many meetings as observers, taking notes and reporting to the full Grand Jury. By this method the Kings County Grand Jury continues to be a “watchdog” for the residents of our county.

Number of meetings members of the 2017-2018 Grand Jury attended:

Avenal City Council	14	Kings County Board of Supervisors	10
Corcoran City Council	10	Kings County Budget hearing	2
Corcoran Hospital	5	Lemoore City Council	12
Hanford City Council	8	Lemoore Union Elem. School District	8
Hanford Elementary School District	7	Lemoore Union High School District	8
Hanford Joint Union High School District	10	Reef-Sunset School District	7
Home Garden Coalition	14		
Island Union School District	5		

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury volunteered 7,899.25 hours from July 2017 thru May 2018 in fulfilling the duties of a Grand Juror, not counting the travel time involved. This is an average of 465 hours per juror.

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HEALTH AND EDUCATION



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AVENAL HIGH SCHOOL

May 23, 2018

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was made aware of concerns regarding Avenal High School expressed by some Avenal community members. A campus visit was conducted by the entire Grand Jury where the following was observed:

- Arrival and departure of students
- Student behavior on campus
- Classes for the entire class period
- Tardiness of students to class

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury conducted an unannounced campus visit of Avenal High School because of concerns expressed to the Grand Jury by members of the Avenal community. California Penal Code §933.5 states in part: “A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county...”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited Avenal High School on Monday, March 12, 2018. Members of the grand jury attended classes, spent time on campus during breaks and interviewed students, members of the administration and members of the teaching staff. Additionally, a committee made another visit on April 16, 2018 for further research.

DISCUSSION

The City of Avenal is located in the coastal range foothills of the western San Joaquin Valley. Avenal High School is part of the Reef-Sunset Unified School District and serves students in grades 9-12. Avenal High School's mission statement states "Our mission is to provide a comprehensive education in a safe environment in order to prepare all students to be lifelong learners, capable of functioning as conscientious, responsible citizens ready to succeed in future educational and career opportunities." Avenal High School's enrollment ranges between 600-630 students with many students having limited English language skills.

The Reef-Sunset Unified School District serves the communities of Avenal and Kettleman City having agriculture as the main industry for both communities with the majority of the adult population being farm laborers. The remaining population is employed by the school district, city government, Avenal State Prison and the retail businesses serving both towns. The population of the school district's attendance area is 95 percent Hispanic. The district enrollment mirrors the community population with 58 percent as English language learners. The district is classified as a "Provision Two" district under Federal Guidelines which means that the economic levels are low enough to support all student meals being provided at no cost to students.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER STUDENTS

The district is "up to date" on all district and state testing which provides information as to the English level of all students. This allows the school counselors to evaluate the placement of each student and place them in classes where the best chance of success is present.

Usually there are fewer than 12 students in any school year who enroll directly from other countries. According to the counseling staff, many students enrolled have been in the United States for two or three years but still have very limited English skills. Students spend most of their time away from school where a language other than English is spoken. This appears to be a great disadvantage for students who are trying to learn English.

Avenal High School offers a support class for incoming students who don't speak English and currently has 22 students enrolled in the class with most students being in the 9th grade. Plans to expand this program next school year are currently in progress.

The district has three district coaches who work with teachers to train them in ways to help students learn English. One of the district coaches is primarily assigned to Avenal High School. According to several teachers, when they are pulled out of class to train, it causes a disruption of the regular academic program.

In a follow-up meeting with staff, the Grand Jury was made aware of certain changes that bilingual students and families could benefit from:

- Develop a credit program for bilingual West Hills College students to work with Avenal High students.
- It would be helpful if the district could hire as many bilingual teachers and aids as possible.
- Develop an after-school tutorial program which has some “reward” to omit any stigma by being enrolled.
- Further develop the Student Assistant Program to permit bilingual students the opportunity to help English language learners.
- Offer classes at no cost for parents to help build English skills.

CAMPUS

Avenal High School has buildings which have been in use for more than 50 years. It is apparent that there is a great deal of pride on the part of the entire school community in preserving the campus appearance. In fact, during the time of the Grand Jury visit large trees were being planted on campus. The Grand Jury was also informed that during the recent winter break, the flooring was replaced in the main building halls. In some classrooms, the ceiling tiles were in need of repair or replacement.

It was hard for the Grand Jury to understand the parking system. It appeared that both students and staff could park anywhere there was space including inside the campus area.

A Grand Jury member observed confusion among vehicles and pedestrians. Parents were dropping off students and children at the child care center. Vehicles were coming in from both directions as students cross the area. This confusion created a hazard for all concerned.

The campus was very clean when the Grand Jury arrived before the arrival of students and was as clean following the morning break and after lunch. Students did not litter the campus which happens at many school campuses. Some restrooms, while very clean, were in need of paper supplies.

Avenal High School does not have a fence around the campus unlike most Kings County high schools. Instead, the school has a system of more than 30 cameras on campus for supervision. There are eight stations where campus activity can be observed. Research was done to explore the possibility of having a campus fence. The school district found the cost would be more than \$500,000 and decided not to pursue a fence.

Members of the Grand Jury made a point to be on campus during the morning break, during passing times and during the lunch break to observe student behavior. It was noted that students behaved very well and were respectful of others. Students also were in class on time which was a vast improvement from the last Grand Jury visit to Avenal High School.

The Grand Jury was provided a copy of the 2016-2017 Expulsion Rate Report for Avenal High School by the California Department of Education. The report stated that during the 2016-2017 school year, Avenal High School had only two expulsions and both were because of drug violations according to the school administration.

Avenal High School has a closed campus but 11th and 12th grade students may leave the campus during lunch provided that they have a “C” grade point average, no discipline points, have good attendance and written parent approval. Students in 9th and 10th grades stay on campus during lunch.

A few of the Grand Jury members visited the cafeteria during the morning break. The food is provided by the district and the menu varies daily. The cafeteria staff was friendly and interacted with the students while serving them. The Grand Jury had an opportunity to purchase a “student lunch”. The majority of the Grand Jury enjoyed the healthy lunch.

BLOCK SCHEDULE

Members of the Grand Jury talked with both students and staff regarding the Avenal High School block schedule. The vast majority of both of these groups expressed their favor of the block schedule. They felt that this was a good use of time and that it provided the opportunity to enhance the educational process. However, it should be noted that the success of the block schedule is dependent upon the organization and planning by the teacher of the class.

CLASSROOMS

Members of the Grand Jury attended a total of 24 classes for the entire period as well as attending seven SMART (home room class) sessions. The goal was to spend as much time in class as possible to “get a feel” for Avenal High School classes and see the teaching styles of as many teachers as possible. As with any school, the variety of teaching styles was vast. There were some classes that were most impressive and others where the time was not well spent.

Chromebooks are provided to each student for classroom assignments. It was observed that in several classrooms, students were using the Chromebooks in activities other than classroom assignments, such as watching movies, playing games, and being on social media. The Grand Jury especially noted misuse of cell phones.

ACADEMIES

Teachers, with the help of the Administration, have written grants which provide additional funds and academic support to Avenal High School students. The programs have open enrollment to all students as long as they have enough time to meet all program requirements. The programs are referred to as academies. These academies as stated in the 2017/2018 Student/Parent Handbook are:

Wonderful College and Career Prep Academy (WCCPA) – In a concurrent enrollment format through West Hills College, students major in Plant Science in completing their High School Diploma and Associates in Science degree transfer units.

After high school, students have the ability to transfer into a four-year university as a junior or go straight to work for Wonderful Company.

Waste Management Environmental Science Academy (WMESA) – In a concurrent enrollment format through West Hills College, students major in Environmental Science working to complete their Associates degree. Students have the ability to transfer with 24 general education units, to transfer to a four-year university, and/or earn several certifications along the way, which will allow them to join the work force straight out of high school if they choose.

Health and Medical Occupations Academy (HMOA) – designed for students who want to pursue a career in the health field. This two-year program incorporates academics as well as practical training and health career exposure. Students could potentially earn their Certification as a Nurse Assistant (CNA).

Avenal High School academy students have the opportunity of taking “on campus” classes taught by West Hills College staff and receiving college credit as well as concurrent high school credit.

With funds provided by the grants, field trips become an option for the benefit of the educational experience of students. All field trips are designed by staff, approved by the school administration and then by the Board of Trustees before taking place.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrative team consists of the Principal and two Assistant Principals. One Assistant Principal works with Athletics and the other works with Student Activities. In addition there is one campus supervisor. It was apparent to the Grand Jury that these people work hard to fulfill their responsibilities and the atmosphere on campus displays their positive leadership.

The school district has arranged with the Avenal Police Department to have one Campus Resource Officer for the entire district. This officer divides time between all district schools. The position is funded at 50% by the district and 50% by the Avenal Police Department. The week before the Grand Jury visited, a student stabbing took place near

the campus, as well as a threat of a mass campus shooting which is an example of the need for extra security.

Members of the Grand Jury were invited to attend the Monday morning academic and activities meetings which are held in the Principal's office every week. The open exchange of ideas was apparent as each person in attendance at both meetings had the opportunity to share ideas and suggestions as to the best manner to carry out their tasks. It was impressive to watch the open dialog which does not happen at every school.

The Grand Jury observed the outreach of the administration to involve staff in the overall operation of the school and understands the importance of campus-wide communication. Some teachers expressed the opinion that they are not involved with happenings at Avenal High School because they are not informed.

COUNSELING

Avenal High School currently employs two fully credentialed Counselors for the 600+ students enrolled at the school. They each work with students enrolled in two grade levels but work together on big events such as class registration for the upcoming school year.

Counselors work with all students to keep them on track for graduation, post high school life plans and future class schedules. In addition to the academic matters, counselors work with students regarding personal concerns and in some cases have to work with public agencies regarding issues of law.

Students have to talk with a counselor in order to get specific academic information. This is not the best use of time for the student or for the counselor. If the student has a question regarding academics while not at school, they cannot get their question answered until returning to school and making an appointment to see their counselor.

The counselors also develop the master class schedule for the next school year and propose their planned schedule to the principal for review and approval.

CAREER CENTER

The Grand Jury learned that Avenal High School does not have a Career Center. A Career Center could provide support for the Counselors and enhance the overall educational experience for all students while being managed by a non-credentialed employee.

ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

The Grand Jury learned that Avenal High School does not have a class catalog or academic handbook. An academic handbook would provide needed information for students at Avenal High School. Important school information would be readily available at all times for student/parent use.

The published academic information found by the Grand Jury in the Reef-Sunset Unified School District 2017-2018 Student/Parent Handbook was very limited. It does not provide in depth academic/class information.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

There is a great need for expansion of the English Language Learner Program.

Recommendation 1

Develop a credit program for bilingual West Hills College students to work with Avenal High students (ideal for any teacher training program).

Recommendation 2

The district should consider hiring as many bilingual teachers and aides as possible.

Recommendation 3

Develop an after-school tutorial program which has some “reward” to omit any stigma by being enrolled.

Recommendation 4

Further develop the Student Assistant Program to permit bilingual students the opportunity to help English language learners (they could be supervised by district coaches).

Recommendation 5

Offer classes at no cost for parents to help build English skills.

Finding 2

There were potential problems relating to student and staff parking on campus.

Recommendation 1

Develop a system to separate student and staff parking.

Finding 3

There were potential safety hazards in dropping off children for the child care center.

Recommendation 1

Consider a separate drop-off area for the child care center.

Recommendation 2

One-way traffic on the road for the back parking lot and child care center would eliminate congestion, confusion and safety concerns for students and staff.

Finding 4

With the current school climate in the United States there is the need for additional campus security.

Recommendation 1

The Reef-Sunset Unified School District should explore the possibility of having a second Campus Resource Officer with one officer being assigned full-time to Avenal High School.

Finding 5

There are some classes where the teaching and/or classroom management are in need of help.

Recommendation 1

Develop a plan to provide assistance to those teachers needing help in developing lesson plans and/or classroom management.

Recommendation 2

The administration should give public recognition to those teachers who are doing an excellent job.

Finding 6

There are classrooms with missing and/or damaged ceiling tiles.

Recommendation 1

Replace damaged and missing tiles as soon as possible.

Finding 7

There is no Career Center at the Avenal High School campus as in other Kings County High Schools.

Recommendation 1

A Career Center should be established for student use.

Finding 8

Avenal High School does not provide printed class information to students and depends on spoken word from Counselors for information.

Recommendation 1

Develop an Academic Handbook which is provided to students as they enter 9th grade or enroll later.

Finding 9

Misuse of the cell phone policy in classrooms was evident which results in loss of instructional time.

Recommendation 1

Enforce the Student/Parent Handbook policy regarding cell phones.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks the staff of Avenal High School for the visit and for the information provided.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury commends the staff for their dedication to the students and parents of Avenal High School.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to California Penal Code §933(c) states in part: “No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations...”

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Reef-Sunset Unified School District Board of Trustees

Reef-Sunset Unified School District Superintendent

Avenal High School Principal

REQUESTED RESPONSES

None

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HANFORD ADULT SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The Hanford Adult School offers several meaningful educational opportunities for the citizens of the south valley. Programs will be added to the curriculum as funding becomes available. Future goals include increasing personnel and technology. The staff is dedicated and hard working.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited the Hanford Adult School on Monday, October 30, 2017 due to public interest. California Penal Code §933.5 provides in part that the Grand Jury has the authority to "... examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county..."

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited the Hanford Adult School located in Hanford, California which operates under the direction of the Hanford Joint Union High School District. The Grand Jury also conducted interviews with staff and obtained information from the school district website.

DISCUSSION

Hanford Adult School takes pride in "Promoting Lifelong Learning". The school has a staff of 2 administrators, 2 full-time and 14 part-time educators, and 4 classified employees. Programs offered at Hanford Adult School include: English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE1 and 2), Business Technology, Welding, Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) and Pottery. There is also continuing education that includes a jail program, General Education Diploma (GED) preparation classes and a citizenship preparation course. The school accommodates special education students up to the age of 22, by offering integration programs. All programs offered are based on the needs of the population of Kings and surrounding counties. These programs include:

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

- No charge
- Beginning, intermediate and advanced computer labs
- Distance learning provides videos, DVDs and/or study materials for home use
- At the time of this report there were 117 students enrolled in the ESL program

BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY

- There are seven courses offered with fees ranging from \$40.00 to \$125.00
- There is no charge for high school students
- On-site training, experience and placement assistance is provided
- At the time of this report, 55 students were enrolled in Business Technology

WELDING

- Five types of certification
 - Shield metal arc welding
 - Gas tungsten arc welding
 - Flux cored arc welding
 - Oxy-Acetylene gas welding
 - Gas arc welding
- \$250.00 per class and \$65.00 for certification
- Instruction provided by a certified master welder
- Applicants must be 18 years or older
- Classes offered three nights a week
- Maximum students per class is 20
- Corcoran State Prison has recently donated welding equipment to the program

CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT (CNA) PROGRAM

- All applicants are screened, tested and interviewed to qualify for program

- Hanford Adult School is the only site in Kings County for certification testing
- Students from Kings and south valley counties are enrolled
- Applicants must be 17 years or older
- Thirty students accepted per semester
- Two full-time instructors for a student to teacher ratio of 15:1
- The CNA program cost of \$800.00 per semester is the least expensive in Kings County
- Future plans include training in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), phlebotomy and pharmacy technician

POTTERY

- The cost is \$125.00 per semester
- Class is held one evening per week
- No age limit
- Limited to 30 students per class

CONTINUING EDUCATION

- GED preparation classes are offered
- The only GED testing site in Kings County
- Jail program includes up to eighty students while incarcerated (can continue at the adult school upon release)
- High school diploma program currently includes 175 students
- Independent study program currently includes 95 students
- A transition program from high school to adult school is offered when there is a credit deficiency for meeting graduation requirements and the student has reached the age of 18

A concern noted by the Grand Jury is that the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation has lapsed. The administration stated that they are currently working to regain the accreditation.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was very impressed with the scope of current programs offered. Continuing plans for expanded services to meet the educational needs of Kings and surrounding counties are commendable.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

FINDING 1

The WASC accreditation has lapsed.

RECOMMENDATION 1

Continue the application process to regain the WASC accreditation.

FINDING 2

The school is meeting the diverse language needs of the community.

RECOMMENDATION 2

None

FINDING 3

The Certified Nursing Program and Business Technology Program are providing essential training and assistance in job placement to enable students to enter the work force.

RECOMMENDATION 3

The Hanford Adult School should continue searching for community partners to assist in job placement for graduates.

FINDING 4

The welding program provides training and certification for essential/technical skills.

RECOMMENDATION 4

None

FINDING 5

The Pottery program is limited in class size and to one night a week.

RECOMMENDATION 5

Expanding class availability would be of interest to the public.

COMMENTS

The Kings County Grand Jury thanks the staff of Hanford Adult School for the tour and information.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933© provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSE

None

INVITED RESPONSES

Hanford Adult School Principal
Hanford Joint Union High School District Board of Trustees

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HANFORD HIGH SCHOOL

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was made aware of the public interest regarding Hanford High School. Following an interview with a member of the school administration, a tour of the campus was conducted. Members of the Grand Jury in teams of two observed as many classes as possible. The encouraging atmosphere of the school was apparent.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the principal of Hanford High School on Monday, August 28, 2017 and visited the school campus on October 16, 2017 due to public interest. California Penal Code §933.5 provides in part: “A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county...”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury interviewed several members of the Hanford High School staff. The grand jury also observed some classes during instruction at the time of the campus visit. Online research was conducted and printed material was provided by the school.

DISCUSSION

The members of the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury who visited the campus felt that the attitude of the students was positive. It was Homecoming Week at the time of the visit and school spirit was evident. The appearance of the Hanford High campus was clean and well maintained. The school administration has promoted positive displays around the campus which adds to the campus environment. An example of this is the photo display of recent graduates who have shown exemplary personality traits such as leadership and character. There is also an area called “Honor Lawn” which includes plaques honoring former students of Hanford High School who have passed away. Permission is obtained from the family before a plaque is displayed. Hanford High is the largest of the three Hanford Joint Union High School District regular high schools and currently has 1650 students enrolled according to the school principal.

Hanford High was awarded the highest accreditation issued by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and is in year three of a six year accreditation.

Hanford High is the oldest high school in the district and has buildings which are in need of maintenance and repair. The district has a schedule for the needed work to be completed as time and budget permit. There were specific building repair needs noted by the Grand Jury in Room 654. These included missing and damaged ceiling tiles near the air conditioning system. The Grand Jury was later informed that these repairs have been completed.

ADMINISTRATION

The administrative team consists of the Principal, one Assistant Principal and one Learning Director. The Principal is responsible for the overall operation of the school while both the Assistant Principal and Learning Director assist in various responsibilities. It was apparent to the Grand Jury that these people work hard to fulfill their responsibilities and the atmosphere on campus displays their positive leadership.

Campus security is also provided by the Campus Safety staff which provides supervision during the entire school day as well as helping students with individual needs. An officer of the Hanford Police Department is a full time Campus Resource Officer. The cost of this position is shared by the Hanford Police Department and the School District. The officer is assigned to provide campus security as well as to advise individual students and make presentations in classes when requested to do so.

COUNSELING

There are four full time Counselors at Hanford High School. Each Counselor was very well informed regarding their responsibilities and therefore students are provided information to be well prepared for post high school, including career and college. Each Counselor is responsible for advising approximately 400 students and works with students at each grade level. The Lead Counselor coordinates all services provided by the Career Center and Counselors.

CAREER CENTER

The career center staff works closely with counseling in facilitating students' advancement from entering high school to graduation. Some of the services provided are:

- Maintaining an in-house college information library
- Hosting regular college representative and military recruiter visits

- Hosting regular college application and financial aid workshops
- Providing all aspects for SAT, ACT, PSAT and AP testing
- Coordinating scholarship programs (application to awarding)
- Providing NCAA Clearinghouse information for athletes

LIBRARY

All text books are stored in the library. The library staff coordinates textbook distribution for the entire school. Traditional library services continue to be available and students can check out books and electronic devices. In keeping up with technology, the school is going more and more to electronic devices in the classroom. A traditional book fair is held annually to raise funds for the library.

HEALTH SERVICES

There is one registered nurse for the district with an office at Hanford High. This nurse travels to all district sites based upon need. A licensed vocational nurse is located at each school to take care of daily non-emergency needs. All student medication, prescription and non-prescription, is stored in the health services office. Students are only allowed to carry medication if the school receives a written doctor's statement that it is medically required and a parent request form is on file.

CLASS INFORMATION

Class size at Hanford High is based on the contract between the Teachers' Association and the School District. It calls for Math classes to be no larger than 28 students, other academic classes no larger than 30 students and physical education classes to be no larger than 50 students. Teachers are paid extra in the event that a teacher has classes that exceed the maximum based on the total assigned student contacts.

A variety of classes were visited and each class offered insight into the overall operation of the school. Teachers have a basic curriculum as developed by the district curriculum committee and approved by the Board of Trustees but have academic freedom in the presentation. These differences in teaching style were noted by the Grand Jury. It was also apparent that teachers feel a freedom to propose changes to the district curriculum offered, including new classes for the future.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

Campus safety staff provides a safe and enriched campus environment to emphasize learning

Recommendation 1

Continue the campus safety program.

Finding 2

The school district has a master plan for repairs and maintenance based upon time and budget constraints.

Recommendation 2

The district needs to continue to follow through with repairs and maintenance.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed with the many beautification projects that have been carried out which benefit not only current students but students in the future. The administration is to be congratulated on their exemplary leadership.

It was apparent to the Grand Jury that the enthusiasm and dedication of the teachers and the manner in which the district curriculum is presented makes a definite impact. Students appear to be more engaged by this teaching method.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSES

None

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County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 14, 2018

Annaliese M Roa
Food Service Program Manager
Hanford Elementary School District
924 Katie Hammond Lane
Hanford, CA 93230

Thank you for the visit on Monday, May 7, 2018. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciated the information that you provided regarding the Hanford Elementary School District Food Service Department. California Penal code §925a provides in part: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county...”

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was most impressed with the overall operation of the department. The cleanliness was unquestionable. The Grand Jury appreciated the staff taking the time to explain every facet of the operation as well as the organization of the food storage area.

The members of the Grand Jury sincerely thank you for providing the detailed information as well as the tour.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson

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LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY



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AVENAL STATE PRISON

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited Avenal State Prison as per the annual visit requirement. Following an interview with administrative staff, a tour of the facility was conducted. Correctional staff contributed specific information related to their area of expertise. The Grand Jury was given written information regarding care, treatment and programs for the general population.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured Avenal State Prison on Tuesday, November 14, 2017. California Penal Code §919(b) provides: “The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury met with prison administrative staff and toured Avenal State Prison. Pertinent state and prison documents and online information were reviewed.

DISCUSSION

Avenal State Prison was opened in 1987. It was the first stand-alone state prison built in over 20 years. Current prison staff consists of 740 peace officers, 270 support staff and 251 health care staff.

Administrative staff is located in a building outside of the secure perimeter. The Grand Jury was informed that the administration building roof has recently been repaired due to water damage. The original roof was built in 1985 and was past useful date. The replacement was done by inmate day labor at a substantial savings to the state.

The prison is situated on 640 acres. The institution was originally designed for a capacity of 2,320 inmates. With additional construction, the highest population was 8,000 inmates but dropped to approximately 4,000 inmates with the passage of Assembly Bill 109

(AB109), effective October 1, 2011. The prison population is expected to drop even further as a continuing effect of AB109.

The six yards in the facility are surrounded by electric fencing. The prison has 23 dormitory housing units, a qualifying honor cell unit, and a 28 bed outpatient housing unit in the main infirmary. There is a fire house outside of the electric fence which houses 8-10 inmate firefighters.

Each of the six yards are comprised of a recreation/exercise area, a chapel, a canteen where snacks can be purchased, a medical unit and two dining halls. The 28 bed main infirmary is located in the center of the facility but outside of the yards. Inmates in need of specialized medical care or emergency treatment are transported to valley hospitals.

The firehouse has a mutual aid agreement with the County of Kings to provide service to the City of Avenal and the surrounding areas. The inmate firefighters are trained and have the opportunity to acquire their Firefighter1 certification through the State Fire Marshal's Office. The Grand Jury was informed that the fire notification system panel in the firehouse is inoperable. This panel is meant to alert firehouse staff to fires within the prison. There is currently a telephone procedure of notification.

Vocation and education areas are located outside of the yards. These include auto body, auto mechanics, building maintenance, computer literacy, electrical work, electronics, heating ventilation air conditioning (HVAC), masonry, office services, plumbing, welding and small engine repair. Through the Prison Industry Authority, inmates can earn a salary at furniture manufacturing, metal fabrication, laundry and egg sorting. State facilities are the main recipients of these goods.

Self-help recovery programs are offered for all inmates and are not yard specific.

Programs include:

- Narcotics Anonymous and Alcoholics Anonymous
- Criminal and Gangs Anonymous (CGA)
- Youth Adult Awareness Program (YAAP)
- Prison Mindfulness Meditation – Promotes personal responsibility
- Veterans Group – Partners with Kings County Veteran's Service Office to obtain VA benefits
- Art Classes
- Heroes - Promote pro-social behavior and communication
- Communication Skills
- Timeless – Self-education in decision-making processes

- Religious Programs
- Friends Outside – Support family system and facilitate successful re-entry into the community

The programs are designed to help inmates adapt to prison life, modify anti- social behavior and may help some inmates earn credits towards parole.

The Grand Jury observed striking murals on some of the yard walls. The murals are painted by inmates and show distinctive parts of Kings County. A mural committee made up of inmates and staff make the decisions as to the subject and placement of the murals.

PLANT OPERATIONS

The Grand Jury observed inmate work crews digging up water pipes near the walkway going from Yard 1. The Grand Jury was informed that due to leaks in the underground metal hot water pipes, efforts are being made to repair or replace the affected piping. This pipe system provides heating for the buildings and hot water for showers and sinks.

EDUCATION

The education/vocation classes offered are through the Golden Hills Adult School (GHAS). GHAS is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and in 2012 received a 6-year term of accreditation. There are three academic classrooms on each of the six yards providing services to 972 inmates. An additional 1,000 inmates are enrolled in the Volunteer Education Programs (VEP) which includes college classes and Career Technical Classes.

FOOD SERVICES

A staff of 45 is assisted by inmates to serve approximately 12,450 meals a day. The institution is budgeted at \$3.42 a day per inmate. The food is cooked in advance and then preserved using a blast chill method in the main kitchen. It is then distributed to the kitchens on the yards where the food is re-heated and served. Breakfast and dinner are hot meals and a sack lunch is provided for mid-day.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Medical has 251 employees including clinicians who are licensed and board certified. The primary care team consists of medical primary care providers, mental health clinicians, dentists, dental technicians, registered nurses (RN), licensed vocational nurses (LVN), certified nurse assistants (CNA) and office technicians. Telemedicine consultations are available for orthopedics, podiatry, physical therapy, audiology and optometry. Each yard has a clinic for distribution of daily medication and minor complaints. The main infirmary with the triage and treatment area (TTA) is centrally located and is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Inmates needing a higher level of care are transferred to an outside hospital.

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

Avenal State Prison involves the local community in a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is made up of volunteers from the community who meet bi-monthly with the Warden and Executive Staff to discuss issues and share ideas affecting the prison as well as the community. The prison also works with the Inmate Family Council (IFC) which consists of families of those incarcerated with the goal to improve communication, share information and resolve problems. Local charities benefit all year round from monthly food sales and other fundraising efforts. The Avenal State Prison staff is also active in fundraisers such as coat and toy drives during the Christmas season.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES UNIT

The Investigative Services Unit (ISU) includes two K-9 officers trained to detect narcotics and other contraband. Contraband includes cell phones, tobacco, weapons and drugs. The unit provides training for crime scene preservation, drug identification, gangs and many other areas of law enforcement. In 2016 confiscated contraband consisted of:

- 146 cell phones
- 4.91 ounces of heroin
- 1.65 ounces of methamphetamines
- 11 weapons
- 1.32 ounces of marijuana
- 10 syringes

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

A much needed repair of the Administrative Building roof was completed upon receipt of necessary funding. By utilizing inmate day labor, the costs were substantially reduced for California taxpayers.

Recommendation 1

None

Finding 2

The annunciator panel in the fire station is non-operational creating a hazard for inmates and staff in every prison building.

Recommendation 2

Aggressively seek funding in order to complete wiring needed to activate the emergency warning system located in the fire house. The Grand Jury suggests that the use of inmate day labor would substantially reduce costs to California taxpayers.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed by the care and dedication of the staff and the programs offered to inmates. The reduction of prison population due to AB109 has greatly reduced overcrowding which also benefits availability of programs for inmates. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks the staff for the tour and the information provided.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSE

Warden of Avenal State Prison
Avenal State Prison Fire Chief/Safety Officer

INVITED RESPONSES

State of California Fire Marshall

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CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON CORCORAN

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the California State Prison Corcoran. The Grand Jury interviewed staff who provided specific information related to their area of expertise. In addition to the tour, staff provided written information regarding care and treatment for the prison population. An informative visit to the fire house allowed the Grand Jury further insight for review.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the California State Prison Corcoran on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 as mandated by California Penal Code §919(b) which states: “The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”

METHODOLOGY

Prison administrative staff met with the Grand Jury and provided a tour within the California State Prison Corcoran (CSPC). Pertinent state and prison documents and online information were reviewed.

DISCUSSION

CSPC was activated February 22, 1988 at the cost of \$260,145,311. This was the 19th prison built in California. At that time the state of California purchased a 942 acre dairy. In 1995 when the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison Corcoran (SATF) started construction, the acreage for CSPC was reduced to 515.32 acres.

The prison consists of five housing units within the secure perimeter. One housing unit is unoccupied at this time due to a court case (Ashker vs Governor of California which reached settlement in 2015, ending indeterminate solitary confinement in California). One minimum level custody housing unit is located outside of the perimeter which houses minimum security inmates.

Staffing for the prison totals 2,031. That includes 1,162 custody staff, 402 non-custody staff and 467 health care staff. The total inmate population is approximately 3,100, down

from almost 6,000 as a result of realignment from California Assembly Bill 109. The age range of offenders is 18-83. The operating budget for the fiscal year 2015/2016 was \$219,233,993 which is the most recent information available from prison administration. The budget does not include medical, educational or community programs.

HEALTH CARE SERVICES/CORRECTIONAL TREATMENT CENTER (CTC)

The state prison hospital construction was started in 1991 and completed June of 1993 at a cost of \$10,686,653. The hospital was converted to a Correctional Treatment Center as of December 1, 2014.

CSPC's medical department states that they are committed to providing the best medical care for all inmate patients confined to Corcoran. The CTC consists of 50 licensed medical surgical beds, 25 licensed mental health crisis beds, 14 unlicensed outpatient housing unit beds and four alternative housing beds. There are two negative airflow rooms for respiratory isolation. Long Term Care and Hospice Care are also provided. The inpatient units are staffed 24 hours a day seven days a week with Registered Nurses (RN) and ancillary staff. A physician is on duty during business hours and is on call after hours. The Triage and Treatment Area within the CTC is staffed with specially trained RN's and physicians.

Health services available at the CTC include the following:

- Laboratory
- Radiology
- Physical Therapy
- Dietary
- Medical Records

Specialty Services are provided either in outpatient clinics, escorted visits to the specialists offices, or through Tele-medicine consultations. Dental Services provided to all inmates include:

- Preventative dental care
- Restorative treatment
- Periodontal therapy

- Endodontic therapy
- Oral surgery
- Prosthodontics

Outpatient medical services are provided to inmate patients with chronic medical conditions in clinics at the CTC or in the housing units support buildings. These clinics are mainly staffed with Licensed Vocational Nurses or Psychiatric Technicians. During the tour the Grand Jury observed many inmate patients using medical appliances such as wheelchairs, walkers and canes.

FIRE HOUSE

The Fire House is located outside of the secure perimeter and is accessible to CSPC and SATF. It is staffed by a fire chief and three fire captains. There are 12 inmate firefighter positions authorized, however at the time of the Grand Jury visit, only two inmate firefighter positions were filled. The Grand Jury was informed that Cal Fire accepts applications from inmates who complete the inmate fire fighter certification program.

Staff informed the Grand Jury that the original fire alarm system became obsolete. The fire alarm system now consists of land line and radio notification. All fire alarms are logged as they are received. Calls for service during the 2017 year for CSPC Fire Department consisted of 69 for CSPC, 129 for mutual aid with Kings County and 26 to SATF.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES UNIT (ISU)

ISU consists of 23 staff members dedicated to the safety and security of the institution. ISU obtains information regarding criminal activities relevant to drug trafficking, gangs, homicides, stabbings, escape plots, etc. ISU acts as the liaison with other law enforcement agencies, including the Office of Internal Affairs and the Office of Correctional Safety. Some of the specific areas that they are involved in are:

- Security Squad
- Court Liaison
- Evidence Officer

- Tool and Key Control
- Internal Affairs
- Institution Gang Investigations

FOOD SERVICES

The Food Services Department is responsible for preparing and serving one cold and two hot meals per day to the inmate population. In addition to the regular meals, Kosher, religious meat, alternative meals, vegetarian, nourishment bags for diabetic population, liquid nutrition supplements and therapeutic diets are provided to inmates. On a daily basis 12,678 meals are prepared.

The Food Service Department is a “blast chill” institution that is staffed for a five-day-a-week production program. Meals are prepared three days ahead of time in case there is a lockdown or institutional emergency.

PLANT OPERATIONS

CSPC Plant Operations Department’s main purpose is to provide maintenance support to staff and inmates and ensure critical programs continue to operate. Staff consists of 44 assigned personnel with the preventative maintenance, repair, and upkeep of the physical plant, including buildings, mechanical and electrical systems, life/safety and security systems, utilities services and the grounds maintenance. CSPC has three stand-by power generators capable of supplying enough power to support all of the emergency circuits and lighting throughout the institution.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

There are 12 inmate firefighter positions authorized but only two positions were filled at the time of the Grand Jury’s visit which could impact overall service and safety.

Recommendation 1

The Grand Jury recommends a greater effort to fill the authorized inmate firefighter positions for more efficient service and safety.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciates the time and effort taken by staff for the tour of CSPC. The Grand Jury commends the staff for their dedication and diligence.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

Pursuant to Penal Code §933(c), the grand jury requests responses as follows:

REQUIRED RESPONSE

Warden, California State Prison Corcoran

INVITED RESPONSE

Fire Chief, California State Prison Corcoran

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CALIFORNIA SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACILITY

And STATE PRISON CORCORAN

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility (SATF) as required by California state mandate. Correctional staff contributed specific information related to their area of expertise. In addition to the tour, the staff provided written information regarding care, treatment and programs for the general prison population.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured SATF at Corcoran, California on Tuesday, February 6, 2018. California Penal Code §919(b) states: “The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury met with prison administrative staff and toured some of the areas within SATF. Pertinent state and prison documents and online information were reviewed.

DISCUSSION

Groundbreaking for SATF occurred May 1995 and the facility was activated on August 1, 1997. The construction budget was 383 million dollars. The prison buildings total approximately 1,600,000 square feet. The prison property encompasses approximately 280 acres. The distance around the prison is 2.7 miles. SATF is one of 35 prisons in California and the largest substance abuse facility in the United States.

There are four complexes enclosed within an electrified fence with a total inmate bed capacity of 6,173. At the time of the visit approximately 4000 inmates were in custody. Each complex is separated from others by roads, fences, buildings and/or solid walls. The complexes contain housing, inmate programs and services, administration, prison support services and inmate work/training programs.

The prison staff totals 2,071. Included in that number are 1,117 correctional staff, 471 healthcare staff, 263 education staff, 203 support staff and 17 administrative staff. The annual budget for the prison, including medical services, is 286.1 million dollars.

It was noted when the Grand Jury entered the east visitors welcoming center that both the men's and women's restrooms were extremely unsanitary. It was explained to the Grand Jury that the inmate cleaning crew from the neighboring prison was on lockdown and that the restrooms would not be cleaned until the end of the lockdown.

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES UNIT

The Investigative Services Unit (ISU) has 15 Investigative Officers, two Investigative Lieutenants and two Investigative Sergeants. The ISU's main objective is to maintain the safety and security of the institution. ISU duties include:

- Narcotics investigations
- Gang investigations
- Suicide/attempted homicide investigations
- Crime scene processing
- Escape investigations

ISU also works with other law enforcement agencies including the Kings County District Attorney's Office, the Department of Corrections Office of Internal Affairs and the Office of Correctional Safety. The Court Liaison Officer works with the District Attorney's Office preparing court documents, assisting in court scheduling, serving subpoenas and referring all prosecutable offenses.

SATF has two K-9 Officers used in locating drugs, cellular phones and other contraband. The passive K-9's role is to be the first line of defense in being able to detect contraband on a person. The passive K-9 is not aggressive and can be walked through crowds of people to detect contraband.

EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The education/vocation classes are offered through the Tulare Lake Adult School (TLAS). TLAS is accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The school has its own operating budget that is separate from the institution budget and was 9.3 million dollars for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

Programs offered are:

- Adult Basic Education, level I through III
- General Education Development

- High School Diploma Program
- College Courses
- Career Technical Education
- Developmentally Disabled Program Assistance
- Disabled Placement Program Assistance
- Sign Language Interpreter Assistance
- Enhanced Out-Patient Education Program
- Transitions

Educational services are provided to over 2,800 inmates by a \$172,000.00 allocation from a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Title II Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, Section 225 Federal Grant. Specific programs offered include:

- 18 General Population Adult Basic Education classes
- 11 Volunteer Education Program classes
- 17 Career Technical Education classes
- 342 students currently enrolled in college courses
- 7 recreation/law libraries, one on each yard plus a central library
- 7 educational television channels with six more channels being added this fiscal year

FOOD SERVICES

The food service department prepares approximately 16,400 meals a day. This includes 2 hot meals, breakfast and dinner, and 1 cold meal, lunch. The food service budget allotment is based on \$3.50 per inmate per day. The meals follow guidelines established by the National Academy of Sciences. Therapeutic dietary meals are prepared for the 40 inpatient beds in the Correctional Treatment Center and 34 therapeutic outpatient diets distributed throughout the institution. Additionally, there are:

- 145 inmates on the Kosher Meal Program
- 226 inmates receiving Religious Meat Alternatives
- 132 inmates on a Vegetarian Diet
- 168 insulin dependent inmates receiving nourishment bags nightly

HEALTH SERVICES

SATF has the largest number of patients of all the prisons in California. The medical program mirrors the diverse missions of the institution as a whole. There is a Treatment and Triage Area, a licensed infirmary inpatient unit located in the Correctional Treatment

Center (CTC) comprised of 18 medical and 20 acute mental health beds and 11 housing unit clinics.

Health services include:

- Dental services
- Laboratory services
- Mental health services with an enhanced outpatient program
- Onsite specialty clinics and telemedicine specialty clinics
- Physical Therapy
- Radiology services
- Pharmacy services

During the Grand Jury tour a juror questioned the use of the Negative Air Pressure Flow rooms in the CTC. Prison staff was unable to provide an answer. Negative Air Pressure Flow rooms are used to contain respiratory infections.

REHABILITATIVE PROGRAMMING

SATF has therapeutic pre-release programs and comprehensive rehabilitative programs under the direction of the Division of Rehabilitative Programs. These programs are designed to facilitate inmates' ability to acquire positive and pro-social values, attitudes, behaviors, and cognitive skills to support their re-entry as useful members of the community. The rehabilitative programs are a means to significantly reduce criminal recidivism. Programs offered include:

- Substance Use Disorder Treatment
- Anger Management
- Criminal Thinking
- Family Relationships
- Cognitive Behavioral Interventions for Sex Offenders Program

COMMUNITY COMMITMENT

SATF involves the local community by activities as coordinated by the Community-Staff Relations Committee. Every year during the holidays, staff adopts a local elementary school and provides gifts for each student. Gifts and monetary donations are also given to the local Emergency Aid to assist needy families.

SATF joined with other organizations for Operation Gobble which provides Thanksgiving turkeys to hundreds of people. Another program is Bowling for Kids through Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Staff raises money to help the children in the community.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

At the time of the tour the restrooms in the east visitors' center were in unsanitary conditions. Toilet bowls and floors were filled with refuse and had a foul smell.

Recommendation 1

Develop a plan to keep the restrooms clean and useable even during a lockdown period. Clean restrooms eliminate health hazards.

Finding 2

Staff members assigned to the correctional treatment center were unable to explain the use of the negative air flow holding cell/treatment rooms.

Recommendation 2

All staff members assigned to the correctional treatment center should be knowledgeable in the purpose and use of the negative air flow holding cell/treatment rooms.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciates the time and effort taken by staff for the tour of SATF. The Grand Jury commends the staff for their dedication and hard work.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: "Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt..."

REQUIRED RESPONSE

Warden, California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison at Corcoran

INVITED RESPONSES

Chief Medical Officer, California Substance Abuse Treatment Facility and State Prison
at Corcoran

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KINGS COUNTY JUVENILE CENTER REPORT

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings County Juvenile Center and the proposed new Juvenile Center. The Grand Jury also interviewed the Chief Probation Officer. This investigation was conducted based upon general interest of the community.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings County Juvenile Center on Tuesday, October 17, 2017 due to public interest. California Penal Code §925 provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county”...

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury interviewed staff and researched information online before visiting the current Kings County Juvenile Center. The Grand Jury also visited the proposed new facility at the previous Kings County Branch Jail.

DISCUSSION

There are plans to move the Kings County Juvenile Center from its current location at 1424 Forum Drive, Hanford, California to the previous Kings County Branch Jail at 690 East Drive, Hanford, California following renovations. Plans to start the renovation are pending approval from the California State Fire Marshall. At the time of the interview, approval was expected by January or February of 2018. The projected cost for the renovation is 9.6 million dollars which will be paid by state funding.

The new plans include more classroom space but will have the same number of available beds (56). The individual cells will be larger with double bunks, a sink and a toilet. A larger exercise area and garden are planned. There is additional space for future expansion at the facility when needed.

The existing Juvenile Center has several programs aimed at rehabilitation and positive behavioral modification to facilitate integration back into the community. These programs are developed by staff in order to improve the attitude and behavior of juveniles who are housed in the facility.

An educational program is offered under the direction of the Kings County Superintendent of Schools. This program affords juveniles the opportunity to earn credits toward a high school diploma. Once released, credits earned while incarcerated can be transferred to a regular high school. Students who complete requirements while in the Juvenile Center can be issued a high school diploma by the Kings County Superintendent of Schools.

An additional program is the “incentive” program which provides rewards for “positive behavior”. Popular rewards may include:

- Video calling - face-to-face calls to parents or guardians
- Movie night - groups may watch movies in the recreation room with popcorn and soft drinks
- Chalk - enables juveniles to write on chalkboard area in cells
- Additional evening snack
- Lunch with the director – special menu as selected by the director

Rewards are earned by good behavior. A display board reflects those who have earned rewards.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury observed positive interaction between the juveniles and staff.

Recommendation 1

None

Finding 2

The incentive program as developed by staff is exemplary.

Recommendation 2

The incentive program should be continued.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciates the effort on the part of the county in providing an updated facility for the juveniles of Kings County and looks forward to the completion of the facility. The grand jury also congratulates the staff of the Juvenile Center for their leadership in providing a quality program at the Juvenile Center.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

The grand jury requests responses as follows:

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Kings County Board of Supervisors

INVITED RESPONSES

Kings County Chief Probation Officer

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County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Clay Smith, Fire Chief
Kings County Fire Department
280 Campus Drive
Hanford, CA 93230

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured two of the Kings County Fire Stations (Armona and Avenal) during the month of September, 2017. The California Penal Code §925 provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officer, departments, or functions of the county...”.

The two fire stations that were visited were long overdue for a grand jury visit and could serve as examples of the quality of fire stations in the Kings County Fire Department. Both stations exceeded the expectations in cleanliness and organization. Fire department staff explained the uses of all fire fighting apparatus and equipment.

During the tours of the fire stations, a discussion ensued regarding the 1-person fire station which has been a concern of the Kings County Grand Jury for years. The grand jury was informed that Kings County has received a Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) grant and a Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) matching grant which provides partial funding for firefighters. These grants ensure that all Kings County fire stations be staffed by two or more fire personnel.

Kings County Fire Department
January 3, 2018
Page #2

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciates the dedication of all members of the Kings County Fire Department. Each fire station has unique capabilities to protect the citizens of their area as well as respond to mutual aid calls for assistance.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

David Robinson, Sheriff
County of Kings
1444 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings County Jail on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. California Penal Code §919(b) provides: “The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”

As the tour began, a member of the administrative staff provided information pertinent to the operation of the facility. Following this presentation, the members of the Grand Jury were shown each segment of the facility. The Grand Jury found the facility to be very clean and well maintained.

The Sheriff’s department strives to meet the needs of the diverse inmate population. The rehabilitation programs offered to the inmates are varied and include educational classes.

The Hanford Adult School in cooperation with the Sheriff’s department works with inmates to earn the graduate equivalency diploma (GED). When released, inmates can transfer to the adult school for further educational opportunities.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks the Sheriff and staff. Your dedication to public service is apparent.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson

COUNTY GOVERNMENT



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CORCORAN HOSPITAL REPORT

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury reviewed the Corcoran District Hospital for an overview of the progress and the finances of the current Corcoran District Hospital Board of Directors.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury examined the Corcoran District Hospital (CDH) records due to public interest. Per California Penal Code §933.5: “A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county or the local agency formation commission in the county, and in addition to any other investigatory powers granted by this chapter, may investigate and report upon the method or system of performing the duties of such district or commission.”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury researched the history of the Corcoran District Hospital through documents/records provided by the CDH Board of Directors, by interviews with the Board members and previous Grand Jury reports. The scheduled Board meetings were attended by Grand Jury members.

DISCUSSION

The Corcoran District Hospital has been a matter of interest to the community for a number of years. The new CDH was funded by Measure C in 2005 in the amount of 18 million dollars. The hospital itself closed in October of 2013. Approximately 12.5 million dollars had been spent with only a parking lot and hospital infrastructure built. The money spent included an architect’s fee of \$5.4 million dollars and the purchase of

12 real estate parcels. The Grand Jury received appraisal reports on seven of the properties. They were purchased for \$728,580 the appraised value was \$370,000. In October 2017, these same properties were appraised at \$67,500.

In 2016 the citizens of Corcoran voted to give the CDH Board permission to sell the property by approving Measure T. As of January 2018, a letter of intent to purchase all assets of CDH for one million dollars was received by the board from Adventist Health. In March 2018, CDH entered into a purchase and sell agreement with Reedley Community Hospital which is a part of Adventist Health. Adventist Health currently operates a clinic in a small section of the existing hospital building.

The current board does not have any of the original board members and has had difficulty to get the public to participate. Board members are elected but very few citizens run for the position. If there are not enough applicants at the time of the election, a citizen can be nominated by the existing board and then appointed by the Kings County Board of Supervisors. At one time the board only had one member.

The CDH Board has been steadily paying the remaining debt and has negotiated some of the debts down. The Measure C bond debt is collected through property tax by the Kings County Treasurer. It is held in a separate account and dispersed to the bond holders by the Treasurer's office. Payments are scheduled to be paid through the year 2035.

There is a property tax on the citizens of Corcoran for health care which amounts to \$350,000 to \$400,000 dollars a year. This is an ongoing tax and is the fund that is being used to reduce the CDH debt. The remaining debt on the CDH is approximately 1.1 million dollars. Of that debt, \$500,000 is to repay the federal government for the overpayment of Medicare services. A local congressman is helping the board by trying to negotiate the reduction of that debt. The balance is owed to other vendors, such as accounting firms, legal fees, and insurance.

The Grand Jury was informed that money from the sale of CDH to Adventist Health will be used to significantly reduce the remaining debt. The Board told juror members that public hearings will be held for community input on use of the funds that will still be received from property taxes.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

There is an ongoing property tax for health care on the citizens of Corcoran.

Recommendation 1

The CDH Board should hold a public study session on use of the property tax after the debt is paid in full.

Finding 2

There is a lack of public participation on the CDH Board.

Recommendation 1

The Grand Jury recommends more public notice and advertisement in the local newspaper before elections.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 990 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSES

President, Corcoran Hospital

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KINGS COUNTY ELECTIONS

SUMMARY

With the upcoming statewide election, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the elections office for information regarding election procedures and regulations. The elections office staff provided the requested information and demonstrated the computer systems used. The staff conveyed their concern to the Grand Jury of the possible breakdown of the old ballot counting machines.

BACKGROUND

On March 8, 2018, the Kings County Assessor-Clerk/Recorder-Registrar of Voters appeared before the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury to discuss her job responsibilities and explain the election process. The Grand Jury then toured the Kings County Elections office on Thursday, April 5, 2018 due to public interest with the upcoming elections. The California Penal Code §925 provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county...”

METHODOLOGY

A tour of the Kings County Elections office and their warehouse was conducted by the staff of the elections office which enhanced the information provided by the earlier meeting with the Assessor-Clerk/Recorder-Registrar of Voters. Documentation was given to the Grand Jury regarding California voter laws and regulations, voter registration and the actual voting process. The computer programs used were demonstrated to the Grand Jury. Online information was also reviewed.

DISCUSSION

Voter registration is administered by the California Secretary of State.

Basic voter requirements according to AB2466 (effective 01/01/2017) are:

- Must be a United States citizen
- Must be a California resident
- Not currently in state or federal prison or on state parole for the conviction of a felony
- At least 18 years of age at the time of the election
- Not currently mentally incompetent to vote

An application to register to vote may be completed on the Secretary of State's website (<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voter-registration/>) or at the local registrar of voter's office. Voter pre-registration is available for Californians who are 16 or 17 years of age. They will automatically be registered to vote when they turn 18. The deadline to register is 15 days prior to election day. According to the elections office records, Kings County has more than 51,000 registered voters at the time of the investigation related to this report.

As of April 16, 2018 eligible applicants completing a driver license, identification card or change of address transaction online, by mail or in person at the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) office can voluntarily choose to register to vote. The information is transmitted securely and electronically to the California Secretary of State by the DMV. The Secretary of State forwards verified information to the local county elections office daily.

Under California law, military or overseas voters who complete the online voter registration application or submit a federal post card application will automatically be registered as permanent vote-by-mail voters. Elections office staff reported that mail-in ballots are becoming more popular. On election day, if a voter is not on the master precinct list, has moved, or wishes to vote at the precinct rather than by mail-in ballot, a provisional ballot is completed. These ballots are kept separate and the local county elections staff will verify eligibility.

California State Law requires personal identification for registration such as:

- Driver's License Number
- Social Security Number (last four digits)
- Birthdate
-

The election staff impressed the Grand Jury with the procedures in place to prevent voter fraud. The election staff is trained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on how to determine if signatures are valid. The verification process is the comparison of either the roster signature or the vote by mail envelope signature to the registration form scanned into the state voter registration system. The state maintains the voter registration system called Data Integrated Management System (DIMS) which is used to verify voter identity. Each voter has a unique voter number in the state data base called Access Voter Information Data Base (AVID). This facilitates the ability to compare the existing information and signature on file.

Normally, poll workers cannot ask for identification of voters at the poll locations. There are rare circumstances when the roster will state "ID Required." Those are instances when a voter has registered but their identifying information on their registration form is unclear. The law prohibits voter registration information from being used for commercial purposes.

There are two ballot counting machines in the elections office. The machines were bought in 2005. Elections staff reported that parts are difficult to obtain. The contractor does not guarantee parts availability if the machines break during election times. The Grand Jury was shown the elections warehouse which contains over 200 voting machines. These machines were purchased for Kings County and subsequently decertified by the California Secretary of State due to the possibility that they could be hacked. Although decertified these voting machines are still used for the disabled at each precinct. Kings County has 34 polling places. For the statewide direct primary election on June 5, 2018, 22 polling places will be utilized.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

The ballot counting machines are old and repairs are difficult and expensive.

Recommendation 1

The Grand Jury recommends the purchase or lease of new ballot counting machines to ensure election results in Kings County are not delayed or complicated by machine failure.

Finding 2

A warehouse is being used to store unusable voting machines.

Recommendation 2

Determine if the unusable voting machines can be destroyed or sold.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSE

Kings County Board of Supervisors

INVITED RESPONSE

Kristine Lee, Assessor/Clerk-Recorder/Elections

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County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Ed Bitner, Chairman
Armona Community Services District
10956 14th Avenue
Armona, CA 93202

On Thursday, November 2, 2017, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Armona Water Treatment Facility. Pursuant to California Penal Code §933.5: “A grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any special-purpose assessing or taxing district located wholly or partly in the county or the local agency formation commission in the county...”

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciated the invitation and tour of the facility. The jury was impressed with the quality of water provided to the citizens of Armona that now surpasses state and federal standards. The facility has a state of the art computer control program that also provides an excellent emergency response notification system. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for your dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



COUNTY OF KINGS

GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Office: 449 C Street

Lemoore, CA 93245

grand.jury@co.kings.ca.us

(559) 852-2892

June 14, 2018

Angie Dow, Executive Director

Kings County Area Public Transit Agency

610 W. 7th Street

Hanford, CA 93230

Thank you for the visit on Thursday, April 12, 2018. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciated the information that you provided regarding the Kings County Area Public Transit Agency. California Penal code §925a provides in part: "The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county..."

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation of KART. The Grand Jury looks forward to the improvements that you discussed during your visit as well as your master plan to communicate changes to the public.

The members of the Grand Jury sincerely thank you for providing the detailed information as well as the invitation to ride KART.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster

Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Kings County Board of Supervisors
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

Dear Sirs:

On Wednesday, August 23, 2017, the 2017- 2018 Kings County Grand Jury met with Scott Holwell, the Kings County Public Guardian and Veteran's Service Officer. A presentation was given regarding the services provided by the offices of the Public Guardian and Veteran's Services. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925 provides in part: "The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments or functions of the county..."

An informative discussion was led by the Public Guardian and Veteran's Service Officer. The Grand Jury was very impressed by the scope of services covered by this office.

The Kings County Grand Jury thanks Mr. Holwell for his dedication to the veteran's of Kings County and the needs of the public.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Tim Bowers, Superintendent
Kings County Department of Education
1144 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

On Monday, September 18, 2017, the 2017- 2018 Kings County Grand Jury met with Margie Newton, Director of the Kings County Career Education Program. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925 provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments or functions of the county...”

An informative discussion was led by the Program Director. The discussion was held to identify changes that have been made in the program. The Grand Jury was impressed by the extensive work that is being accomplished with youth and adults.

The Kings County Grand Jury congratulates Mrs. Newton for her dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Wendy Osifako
Assistant Director
Kings County Human Services Agency
1400 W. Lacey Blvd. Bldg. 8
Hanford, Ca 93230

Dear Wendy

On Thursday, August 31, 2017, the 2017- 2018 Kings County Grand Jury interviewed Assistant Director and the Social Service Supervisor. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925 provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments or functions of the county...”

An informative discussion was led by the Assistant Director and Social Service Supervisor, Resource Family Approval (RFA). It was held to identify what process the department had to provide for welfare of children.

The Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for your dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Greg Gatzka, Executive Officer
Local Agency Formation Commission
1400 West Lacey Boulevard
Hanford, CA 93230

On Thursday, October 5, 2017, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury met with the Executive Officer of the Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) of Kings County. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925 which provides in part: “The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officer, departments or functions of the county...”

The meeting was held to gain information about the purpose and operations of LAFCO. An informative discussion was led by the executive officer. The Grand Jury learned that this organization governs the direction and orderly growth within Kings County. LAFCO reviews all proposals for the formation of new cities, special districts and changes in existing boundaries. LAFCO also considers the effect on existing agricultural lands.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciates the time and effort spent explaining the functions of LAFCO.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT



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CITY OF HANFORD PARKS

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured selected parks in the City of Hanford in August, 2017. The city parks are important recreation sites for all citizens of this community. Two of the parks, Earl F. Johnson Park and the Skate Park, were of concern due to damage and vandalism.

BACKGROUND

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured several Hanford City parks due to public interest. California Penal Code §925(a) provides, in part: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county.”...

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured Hanford City parks during August, 2017, and interviewed City of Hanford Parks and Recreation administrative staff. Pertinent documents were reviewed and internet research was also conducted.

DISCUSSION

The City of Hanford has twenty-one parks that are available for public use. The parks range from community parks, designed for larger groups and events, to neighborhood parks designed more for family use. The Skate Park is considered a special use facility.

Rules and guidelines for the use of Hanford parks as published by the Parks and Recreation Department are:

Picnic shelters in five of Hanford's parks, Hidden Valley Park, Lacey Park, Coe Park, Freedom Park and Centennial Park may be reserved for use year round. Water related activities such as personal water slides, recreational sprinklers, slip-n-slides are not allowed at any of the city parks. Bounce houses are permitted only with a rented shelter. Shelters must be reserved in person at the Hanford

Recreation Department, 321 N. Douty Street, Suite B, Hanford, CA 93230. A rental fee is charged for some park facilities.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the following:

Neighborhood parks:

- Coe Park
- Earl F. Johnson Park
- Lacey Park

Community parks:

- Centennial Park
- Freedom Park
- Hidden Valley Park
- Civic and Courthouse grounds

Special use facility:

- The Skate Park

The Grand Jury found the majority of the city parks to be in good condition even after several years of drought. They are well maintained by a limited number of staff. The tables and playground equipment are adequate and the facilities offered at the parks appear to serve the public needs.

On August 10, 2017, Earl F. Johnson Park was observed by the Grand Jury. There were several concerns: The playground equipment structure was in very poor condition. There were major cracks in the slide making it dangerous to use. In addition, the rest of the unit had been vandalized with graffiti. The gazebo located at the north side of the park showed signs of vandalism, the cement base was cracked and the center support showed major damage. These issues create potential safety hazards for the entire park.

On August 2, 2017, the Grand Jury viewed the facility at the Skate Park. Due to the type of drainage system, there can be standing water at times. The metal railing showed serious wear and there were cracks in the pavement giving rise to possible safety issues.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

At Earl F. Johnson Park the playground structure was in poor condition and a potential safety hazard for the public.

Recommendation 1

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury recommends that the playground structure at Earl F. Johnson Park be replaced or removed for the safety of the public.

Finding 2

The center support of the gazebo at the north end of the Earl F. Johnson Park has been damaged and the cement base is badly cracked in several areas.

Recommendation 2

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury recommends the gazebo center support and cement base be repaired for the protection of the public.

Finding 3

The metal railing at the Skate Park showed serious wear and there were cracks in the pavement giving rise to possible safety issues.

Recommendation 3

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury recommends that the metal railing and cracks in the pavement be repaired for the protection of the public.

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed with the overall condition of the many city parks. The Grand Jury thanks the City of Hanford's Parks and Recreation staff for their time, efforts and for the information provided.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: "Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt..."

REQUIRED RESPONSE

City of Hanford City Council

INVITED RESPONSES

City of Hanford Parks and Recreation Department

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KINGS WASTE AND RECYCLING AUTHORITY

SUMMARY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority site. Following the interview with the director, a tour of the facility was conducted. The director and the operational manager provided information pertaining to their area of expertise. The Grand Jury was provided written information regarding every facet of the facility.

BACKGROUND

As a matter of public interest the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority (KWRA) site. California Penal Code §925a provides in part: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county.”

METHODOLOGY

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury toured the Kings Waste and Recycling Authority facility on Friday, January 26, 2018. Information was gathered from online sources and printed information prior to the visit. A tour of the facility was led by the director after making a presentation to the Grand Jury. In addition, Grand Jury members obtained printed information at the facility following the tour.

DISCUSSION

The Kings Waste and Recycling Authority site is located at 7803 Hanford-Armona Road, Hanford, California. It consists of 229.33 acres and the facility itself is on 2.5 acres. Some of the acreage is leased to local farmers providing income of \$14,117.00 annually.

KWRA was created to comply with Assembly Bill 939 (AB939). The facility was opened in November of 1995. It accepts refuse, green waste, commingled recyclables, construction and demolition debris. Also accepted are hazardous materials, e-waste and sharps. Styrofoam is not recyclable.

In addition to the collections for the City of Hanford, KWRA has contracts with various other collection agencies to receive their trash which may be handled differently than the

City of Hanford collections. Unincorporated areas such as Armona, Home Garden, Kettleman City and Stratford are examples of areas benefited by this service.

PHARMACEUTICAL WASTE

As of September 1, 2008, it is illegal to dispose of sharps in solid waste disposal or recycling containers. Sharps are needles, syringes, lancets and other medical devices that must be disposed of properly. Used sharps spread infectious diseases and can cause needle-stick injuries to children, adults and even pets when included in regular refuse. Sharps disposal containers are available at no charge at KWRA. Sharps can be disposed of at KWRA as well as at various locations throughout Kings County. Expired and outdated medicines are accepted at KWRA on the first Saturday of the month. They are disposed of by Chemical Waste Management.

BLACK WASTE

Non-recyclable refuse (black waste) received is transferred to the Waste Management, Inc. (WMI) landfill in Kettleman City. Approximately 81,000 tons of refuse were transferred to WMI in 2017.

GREEN WASTE

Green waste includes lawn trimmings, brush and clean wood. The green waste is used for either fuel cogeneration or making compost at a local facility. Approximately 21,000 tons were recycled in 2017.

BLUE WASTE

Commingled recyclables (blue waste) consist of cardboard, newspaper, mixed paper, glass, aluminum, tin, High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) plastic and Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) plastic. Also included are tires, scrap metal, scrap plastic and e-waste. The facility sorts, processes and bales the material and sells it to a variety of commodities buyers based on sale price and the type of materials sold. Approximately 7,000 tons were processed in 2017. Again, Styrofoam is not recyclable.

RECYCLED ELECTRONICS

Televisions, telephones, computers, monitors, VCRs, stereos, copiers/printers and fax machines can be picked up at a residence or business without charge for seniors or disabled. KWRA can be called to schedule a pickup. Convenient recycling events for the general public are scheduled in neighborhoods as announced.

UNIVERSAL WASTE

Batteries, fluorescent and high intensity lamps, mercury thermometers, mercury switches, mercury thermostats and probes, counterweights and dampers, pressure or vacuum gauges and aerosol cans are examples of universal waste and do not belong with regular garbage. Universal waste materials can be reused, refurbished, or recycled and some can be hazardous if not disposed of properly. KWRA can be contacted to determine a proper disposal of these materials.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

KWRA provides public education materials upon request to county schools. KWRA staff makes regular informational presentations throughout the community to service clubs, business groups, etc. Staff also provides regular tours of the material recovery facility for school children as part of the environmental education curriculum. KWRA provides a Recycling Resource guide with information on the proper management of household hazardous waste and other informational material to the public.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

None

Recommendation 1

None

COMMENTS

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was very impressed with the overall operation of the facility. The Kings County Grand Jury thanks the staff for their courtesy and the information provided.

RESPONSE REQUIRED

California Penal Code §933(c) provides in part: “Within 90 days of receipt of a report the public agency shall submit its response to the presiding judge. If the report is on an elected public official, the response shall be submitted to the presiding judge within 60 days of receipt...”

REQUIRED RESPONSES

None

INVITED RESPONSES

Executive Director Kings Waste and Recycling Authority

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County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Alvaero Preciado, Mayor
City of Avenal
Avenal City Hall
919 Skyline Blvd.
Avenal, CA 93204

On August 17, 2017 the Kings County Grand Jury conducted a visit to Rice Park in the City of Avenal pursuant to the California Penal code §925a: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county...”.

The citizens of the community make use of the park which demonstrates a confidence in the safety of the facility. However, some members of the community abuse the facility which causes extra work for staff as well as extra expense for the city.

During the visit the following was specifically noted:

- The large playground area was fenced and was covered with rubber chips which are an important safety feature.
- The playground equipment inside the fenced area was in good condition.
- The basketball court appears to recently have been resurfaced with color coded rubber tile and displays the “out of bounds” markers.
- The restroom for men was clean but needed more supplies.
- The restroom for women had a broken faucet located outside.

Letter to City of Avenal

January 3, 2018

Page #2

- The picnic areas had eight large tables and two large barbeques located on a concrete slab.
- Several other picnic tables and barbeques were located in open spaces.
- Two horseshoe pits appeared to be no longer in use.
- The grass area was generally in good condition but some sprinklers needed to be repaired as evidenced by dry grass areas.

Please convey our congratulations to the members of the parks staff as their hard work and dedication is apparent.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

March 23, 2018

Dawn Perkins
Administrative Analyst
City of Avenal
919 Skyline Blvd.
Avenal, CA 93204

On January 19, 2018 the Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the City of Avenal Administrative Analyst. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925a. provides in part: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county...”

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for taking the time to share the information regarding your position as the City of Avenal Administrative Analyst. The Administrative Analyst informed the 2017-018 Kings County Grand Jury that the City of Avenal is in sound financial order.

Sincerely

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

March 23, 2018

Soledad Ruiz-Nunez
Finance Director
832 Whitley Ave.
Corcoran, CA 93212

On March 9, 2018 the Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the City of Corcoran Finance Director. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925a provides in part: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county...”

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for taking the time to share the information regarding the financial position of the City of Corcoran as well as information regarding the position of Finance Director. The Grand Jury was informed that the City of Corcoran is in sound financial order.

Sincerely

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Ron Thomas, Mayor
City of Corcoran
Corcoran City Hall
832 Whitley Avenue
Corcoran, CA 93212

During the week of August 14-18, 2017, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited the city parks in Corcoran pursuant to the California Penal Code §925a: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county.”...

The citizens of Corcoran make use of the parks which demonstrates a confidence in the safety of the facilities. It is apparent that some members of the community abuse the facilities which cause extra work for staff, extra expense for the city and the inability of community use.

During the visits the following was specifically noted:

FATHER WYATT PARK

- The park has lighting.
- The softball field is in poor condition.

- Restroom showed tagging and vandalism.
- The water faucet outside of the restroom was missing a handle and was not working.
- The covered picnic area had three large tables and two barbecues.
Letter to City of Corcoran
- Two smaller tables and two barbecues were located outside the covered area.
- The small playground had two swings, no slide, was very worn, rusted and marked with graffiti.
- There was no special playground ground cover.

CHRISTMAS TREE PARK

- This is a very nice park of which the community can be proud.
- Four tables and ten benches are located around the park.
- Some trees have “in memory of” plaques.
- Mural on the side wall with lighting was donated by the Soroptomist Club.
- The Christmas tree has dedication bricks and pavers located around it. The tree also shows some stress perhaps because of the drought.
- The gazebo which was donated by the Rotary Club has pillar damage.
- A bulletin board is located at the front of the park and contains a calendar, map of the city and church information.

MAROOT PARK

- The park has lighting.
- A restroom is currently being built (subsequent visit revealed the building completed).
- The Veteran’s Hall and Community Center building as well as a Veteran’s Memorial are located in Maroot Park.
- The playground area covering is sand which needs additional sand.
- There are six wooden tables which need to be replaced or refinished.
- Two graffiti covered benches are located near the playground.
- The grass area was generally in good condition but some sprinklers needed to be repaired as shown by dry grass areas.
- Two barbecues were also available but one needs to be replaced as it has a hole where charcoal would be placed.

CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

- Lighting was located at the playground area.
- Water fountain is no longer useable.
- Restrooms need thorough cleaning.
- Four soccer fields are in good condition.
- All tables and benches are in good condition.
- Concrete walk located around the playground is cracked and a hazard.
- The playground equipment needs to be cleaned, the graffiti removed and more sand cover.

BURNHAM-SMITH PARK

- The park has lighting.
- There are two baseball fields, one softball field and four soccer fields which are in good condition.
- Twelve covered tables with four triple barbecues are available.
- Wood benches are in need of repair.
- Surveillance camera is located on top of the restroom.
- Restroom built in 2015 is very nice.
- The water fountains located at the restroom area work.
- The tree-lined walkway around the park is often used by community members.
- The playground equipment is worn.
- Amphitheater is available for community use.

Please convey our appreciation to the members of the parks staff for their diligence and hard work.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Joseph Joslin
Executive Director
Hanford Chamber of Commerce
113 Court Street #104
Hanford, California 93230

Dear Mr. Joslin

On December 1, 2017, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the new executive director, administrative assistant and two board members. Pursuant to California Penal Code §933.6 provides in part: “ The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any non profit corporations established by or operated on behalf of a public entity...”

The new executive director informed the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury that he was hired two days prior to the interview. The administrative assistant informed the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury of the chambers continued efforts to improve the community and business relations.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for your dedication and service.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster, Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

April 27, 2018

Paula Lofgren
Finance Director
City of Hanford
315 N. Douty
Hanford, CA 93230

On February 9, 2018 the Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the City of Hanford Finance Director. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925a provides in part: "The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county..."

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for taking the time to share the information regarding the financial position of the City of Hanford as well as information regarding the position of Finance Director. The Grand Jury was informed that the City of Hanford is in sound financial order.

Sincerely

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

March 26, 2018

Heather Corder, Finance Director
City of Lemoore
119 Fox Street
Lemoore, California 93245

On March 9, 2018 the Kings County Grand Jury interviewed the City of Lemoore Finance Director. Pursuant to California Penal Code §925a provides in part: "The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county..."

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury thanks you for taking the time to share the information regarding the financial position of the City of Lemoore as well as information regarding the position of Finance Director. The Grand Jury was informed that the City of Lemoore is in a sound financial position.

Sincerely

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 20, 2018

Nathan Olson, Interim City Manager
City of Lemoore
Lemoore City Hall
119 Fox Street
Lemoore, CA 93245

During the week of August 7-11, 2017, the 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury visited the city parks in Lemoore pursuant to the California Penal Code §925a which provides that: “The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county.”...

During the visits the following was specifically noted:

PLAZA PARK

- This is a small park between two buildings in downtown Lemoore which is well maintained. It features a fountain, small gazebo, 16 benches, string lights and a small area of grass.
- The murals on the two buildings reflect the diversity of the community.
- The restrooms are clean and well maintained.

CITY PARK

- It is the size of one square block which includes several mature palm trees in need of pruning.
- Features include 12 metal and three concrete picnic tables.
- There is one gazebo with lights.
- The playground has rubber chips on the ground and playground equipment is in good condition.

- The water fountain is built for people as well as a lower access for dogs.
- The restrooms are clean and well maintained.

HERITAGE PARK

- This park features a large open space with several palm trees which are in need of trimming.
- There is a large gazebo with 16 concrete and two metal picnic tables, one large and three small barbeques.
- The water fountain is built for people as well as a lower access for dogs.
- Features include two horseshoe pits, two tennis courts, three basketball courts and a volleyball net area.
- The playground area equipment is in good order.

SKATE PARK, BASKETBALL COURTS, WATER PARK

- Signs are posted regarding skate park rules but do not include hours of operation.
- Graffiti was still visible even after maintenance staff worked to remove it.
- Metal railings for skateboard use were in in good condition with no chips.
- The park includes a drinking fountain and trash cans.
- The water drain on the west side was plugged.
- The restroom was in need of repair and cleaning.
- The water park operates every day during the summer with water shooting up from the ground.
- It features a small gazebo structure, a small area of grass with trees and four picnic tables, benches and trash cans.
- There is no restroom located at the water park area.

The Grand Jury was told that all maintenance is done by city staff except the Plaza Park which is contracted out. Please convey our congratulations to the members of the parks staff as their hard work and dedication is apparent.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster
Foreperson



County of Kings

Grand Jury

P. O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Jury Room: 449 C Street

June 14, 2018

Rosa Maldonado, Office Manager and

Silvia Maldonado, Board President

Kettleman City Community Services District

110 General Petroleum Avenue

Kettleman City, CA 93239

Thank you for the visit on Friday, May 18, 2018. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciated the information that you provided regarding the Kettleman City Community Services District. California Penal code §925a provides in part: "The grand jury may at any time examine the books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency located in the county..."

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation. The Grand Jury looks forward to the improvements that you discussed during your visit as well as the improvements for the citizens of Kettleman City regarding the water delivery system.

The members of the Grand Jury sincerely thank you for providing the detailed information as well as your dedication to the citizens of Kettleman City.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster

Foreperson



COUNTY OF KINGS

GRAND JURY

P.O. Box 1562

Hanford, CA 93232

Office: 449 C Street

Lemoore, CA 93245

grand.jury@co.kings.ca.us

(559) 852-2892

June 14, 2018

Lydia Bock, Public Affairs Officer

Building 730, Wing 2, Room 003

Naval Air Station Lemoore

Lemoore, CA 93246

Thank you for the visit on Thursday, May 24, 2018. The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury appreciated the information that you provided regarding the Naval Air Station at Lemoore, California. The pending improvements and growth will greatly benefit Kings County.

The 2017-2018 Kings County Grand Jury was impressed with the overall operation of NAS Lemoore. The Grand Jury looks forward to the addition of the F/A-35 aircraft and improvements that were discussed. The addition of the two squadrons will be a welcome addition to the population and the economy of Kings County.

The members of the Grand Jury sincerely thank you for providing the detailed information.

Sincerely,

Dick Hoffmaster

Foreperson

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