
INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
FROM: AMY S. NILSEN, COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
SUBJECT: RESPONSES TO 2016-17 GRAND JURY REPORT *LAW ENFORCEMENT FACILITIES*
DATE: AUGUST 10, 2017

The 2016-17 Grand Jury has issued a report titled “Law Enforcement Facilities,” and the Board of Supervisors is required to respond. I recommend that the Board respond as follows.

Recommendation No. R3:

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a review of the pay scale and other incentives of County law enforcement personnel to ensure fair compensation to correctional deputies at the Humboldt County Correctional Facility.

Response:

This recommendation will be implemented. The county is currently engaged in contract negotiations with the Humboldt Deputy Sheriff’s Organization (HDSO) as our collective bargaining agreement expired on June 30, 2017. Through the negotiation process, the county reviews all articles pertaining to wages including incentives.

Recommendation No. R6:

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that necessary maintenance and upgrades be performed to address structural inadequacies at the Humboldt County Coroner’s Office, including aging infrastructure, asbestos, insufficient space, and a poorly-functioning ventilation system.

Response:

This recommendation is being implemented on a county-wide basis, as Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assessments and facility assessments are being conducted in order to determine feasibility and priority ranking. The county has a significant backlog of deferred maintenance on several county facilities, including law enforcement facilities. In addition, the Board of Supervisors as part of its Fiscal Year 2017-18 budget authorized more than \$1.5 million in funding for ADA improvements and facility assessments/asset management.

The county is also currently in the process of developing a long-term facilities plan as well as revising its deferred maintenance funding policy. Lack of revenue has prevented the county from providing adequate funding for its deferred maintenance for a number of years. While the Board acknowledges that county law enforcement facilities need attention, the county must also balance competing needs from other departments and even outside pressures.

Recommendation No. R9:

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office address the issues raised in this and previous reports regarding the Garberville Substation including: bringing it into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, installing an external emergency phone for public use, and installing directional signage on Redwood Drive.

Response:

This recommendation will be partially implemented. As stated above, the county has many pressing ADA issues and bringing the Garberville Substation into compliance is one of them. The county is putting together a comprehensive plan to address ADA compliance, which includes the substation. Additionally, the Board on Aug. 15 authorized the county to negotiate purchase of property located at the former College of the Redwoods campus in Garberville. If successful, this campus could house multiple county services, potentially including the Sheriff.

Recommendation No. R17:

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends that County and city governments engage in a planning process to address issues of safety as well as the short and long term maintenance needs of its law enforcement facilities.

Response:

This recommendation will be implemented. As stated above, the county is currently in the process of developing a long-term plan to address all county facilities, including those for law enforcement. It should be noted that the Board has no authority over cities and how they manage their law enforcement facilities.

Recommendation No. R18:

The Humboldt County Civil Grand Jury recommends a collaborative approach between the Sheriff's Office and the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council to identify and develop adequate holding facilities for eastern Humboldt County in the event that the County Correctional Facility becomes inaccessible.

Response:

This recommendation will be partially implemented. The Sheriff's Office investigated the option and at this point determined it is not feasible to develop new facilities due to prohibitive state regulations and cost.