



SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY
2014 - 2015

Stanton Adult Detention Facility
State of the Art in Modern Detention

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2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury

I. SUMMARY

In accordance with Penal Code §919, on September 4, 2014, the 2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury received a presentation and tour of Solano County's nearly completed Stanton Adult Detention Facility. The Solano County Sheriff's Office had a dedication ceremony on June 5, 2014, yet the facility has not been opened for use. The facility was designed and constructed to insure the safety and security of county residents, Correction Officers and inmates. Staff morale and involvement was remarkable at this facility. Staff remarks included, "We would compare this facility to any other in the entire country, and we would surpass them, City, County or Federal."

II. INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND

The facility is named after a family that had three former sheriff's officers. The three Stantons who are being honored by the facility name are the late Capt. Robert Stanton, who served the Sheriff's office from 1951 to 1984, the late Lt. William Stanton, who served from 1949 to 1979; and Gary Stanton who served the county for thirty years until his retirement as Sheriff in October 2012.

The facility has not been open due to ongoing construction issues. December 2014's heavy rain caused further delays as there were serious leaks needing repair. These items have been brought before the architect for corrections. The costs to repair these areas are borne by the architect. As of the writing of this report, the last few construction issues were being completed, and plans for system and facility testing are all that remain before housing inmates. It is expected that the facility will start housing inmates in June 2015.

The facility was designed to house up to 362 high risk offenders and features many innovations. As an example, structurally, the design includes access behind the pods to repair plumbing and electrical problems without confronting or disturbing the inmates.

Solano County is one of 11 California counties to receive phase one funding under AB 900, which accounts for approximately two-thirds of the funding for the \$89.3 million dollar project. Solano County Public Facility Fund fees were used for the bulk of the remaining project cost.

III. METHODOLOGY

Reviewed:

- Correctional News Article 05-14-2014
- AB900 - May 2007
- Daily Republic Newspaper Article (06-06-2014)

Toured:

- Stanton Adult Detention Facility (SADF)

Interviewed:

- Sheriff's Corrections staff
- Sheriff's Office personnel

IV. STATEMENT OF FACTS

The Stanton facility stands adjacent to the existing 1970's-era Claybank Detention Facility which has 379 beds, currently housing 278 inmates, functions separately and stands alone. The existing Claybank facility will continue to be used for work release, weekender and other lower-security housing.

The new facility will house post-arraignment and pre-sentenced individuals and consists of podular housing units operated by a central control in a modified direct supervision model. The podular design uses modern electronic security to maximize staff effectiveness and efficiency. The building includes support systems of laundry facilities, administrative services area and a secure vehicle sallyport with an intake and processing area as well as a large training room for countywide use. Extensive use of electronic technology results in significant cost savings, since 40 correctional officers can run the entire facility, as opposed to as many as 160 in other similar size and level of correctional facilities.

Members of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Office and other county Sheriff's Offices have toured the Stanton Facility and commented to the Solano Sheriff's staff that they see it as a model for future detention facilities. Out-of-state departments have also toured the facility and commented favorably.

Below are additional facts regarding the Stanton Facility:

- 127,800 sq. ft. Facility (equal to 64 – 2,000 sq. ft. homes)
- 362 beds
- 2 Negative Pressure Rooms (to provide medical protection)
- 194 Close Circuit TV Cameras
- Personal Digital Assistants (PDA)
- Web Based Jail Management System

- Electronic Signature -Touch screen Kiosk for Inmates/Public use
- Mobile Web Applications

VIDEO VISITATION

- Ability to visit an inmate from home via the internet
- No need to bring children into the jail environment
- Ability to visit inmate at any facility from “Visiting Kiosks” located in the Stanton Correctional Facility
- Centralized service
- Reduced inmate movement
- Reduced visitation staff

The main goal of SADF is to house inmates and be able to offer programs to inmates. Upon completion, the goal is that staff, public and inmate safety will improve significantly, programs will be added, recidivism will be reduced, and the facility will be in compliance with critical regulations and standards.

In addition to electronic technologies the facility also incorporates advances in construction materials and methods.

The Sheriff’s Office appointed two sergeants to coordinate the construction of the facility. One sergeant coordinates the physical construction, while the other coordinates the installation and testing of the electronic equipment.

The completion of the Stanton facility will be the result of 11 years of planning and funding, and three years of construction. The groundbreaking ceremony was on August 28th, 2012.

With the existing Claybank facility, the addition of the new jail and the current Justice Center Main Jail, the county will be able to house 1,445 inmates.

Stanton is designated as Maximum Security Type II Facility housing by the California Board of State Community Corrections.

V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1

Solano County has created a detention facility that serves as a model for the entire state corrections system.

Recommendation 1

Continue to direct funds to improve facilities, and maintain efficiency at the “state of the art” Stanton Adult Detention Facility.

Finding 2

Heavy rains caused delays in opening the facility as there were leaks.

Recommendation 2

Ensure the repairs are completed promptly and satisfactorily before housing inmates.

Finding 3

Construction and other issues have delayed the opening of the facility. The facility is to begin housing inmates on June 24, 2015.

Recommendation 3

Complete the construction and facility testing and open the facility on or before June 24, 2015.

Finding 4

The Stanton Adult Detention Facility has taken 11 years to complete, at a cost of \$89.3 million dollars. The facility was dedicated on June 5, 2014, and has yet to house inmates.

Recommendation 4

Populate the Stanton Facility with inmates.

Finding 5

The Stanton Facility is purported to be the best in inmate security, officer safety and cost effectiveness.

Recommendation 5

Move inmates immediately from the 1970’s era Claybank Facility to the Stanton Detention Facility to realize the benefits.

COMMENTS

Solano County can be justifiably proud of our Sheriff's Office in the original vision and planning of the Stanton Adult Detention Facility. The very latest technology is implemented at SADF that allows maximum control of inmates with a dramatic reduction of required staff. The facility offers conditions that lend themselves to enhancing the potential for the ultimate rehabilitation of inmates. The facility is designed so that it can become a source of revenue for Solano County, defraying some of the cost for county residents. When inquiring of the staff about what they would like to add to the equipment, technology, or staffing, they replied there was nothing lacking in the system. The facility was designed and built to be an efficient, safe and secure place to house inmates. When in full operation, the facility should result in a reduction in detention operating costs, especially when compared to older facilities of the same type. Although the facility is impressive, it needs to be fully functioning and housing inmates before it can be properly evaluated. The Sheriff's Office should fix what needs to be done and make the facility fully operational on, or prior to, June 24, 2015.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

Solano County Sheriff's Office

COURTESY COPIES

Clerk of the Solano County Board of Supervisors