

Solano County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury
Issued March 27, 2009

Part I

California Medical Facility

Solano County Board of Supervisors responses to the Grand Jury Report:

Finding #1

The staff appears to be managing the California Medical Facility well, given that the present population is near capacity.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the Grand Jury's finding.

Recommendation #1

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should continue to work toward increasing the size of the facility.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #1

This matter is not under the control of the Board of Supervisors.

Finding #2

Possession and use of smuggled cellular phones by prison inmates poses a serious security problem that is not being adequately addressed within the prison system.

Prison staff is hampered by disciplinary system that is governed by legislation and case law and that imposes no serious penalties for cellular phone possession by inmates. Possession of a cellular phone merely results in the loss of good behavior credits, which can easily be restored over time. A change in the system would require legislation that would make cellular phone possession by a prison inmate a felony punishable by an additional prison sentence.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #2

The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding of the Grand Jury.

Recommendation #2a

The Grand Jury recommends that the California State Legislature pass legislation that will make cellular phone possession by a prison inmate a felony punishable by an additional prison sentence.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #2a

This matter is not under the control of the Board of Supervisors.

Recommendation #2b

Given the gravity of the situation, we recommend that the Solano County Board of Supervisors sponsor legislation as part of its legislative platform to make it a felony for inmates to possess cellular phones within a state prison as well as a felony for staff or visitors to provide inmates with cell phones.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #2b

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is unwarranted because there is pending legislation addressing this issue—SB 434 which would make use of a cell phone a misdemeanor.