

Solano County Board of Supervisors
Response to Grand Jury
Issued April 2, 2009

Part III

California State Prison - Solano

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

Finding #1

California State Prison-Solano is a well organized, administered and run confinement, treatment and rehabilitation facility that is currently being operated under challenging circumstances.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #1

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

Recommendation #1

Continue operating in the same manner, given current circumstances.

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 cell phones by prison inmates poses a serious security problem that is not being adequately addressed within the prison system. Prison staff is hampered by a disciplinary system that is governed by legislation and case law and that imposes no serious penalties for cell phone possession by inmates. Possession of a cell phone merely results in the loss of accumulated good-behavior credits, which can be restored as a result of subsequent good behavior.

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 making cell 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.

Finding #3

There are not enough positions available for all the inmates who are seeking to work in Prison Industries programs. It can be argued that adding positions to these programs would not actually result in greater cost to the state, as the work product provided by Prison Industries workers represents a cost savings to the State departments that use these products and services.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #3

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

Recommendation #3

The prison administration should actively seek to increase the number of inmate work positions in the Prison Industries programs.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #3

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

Finding #4

The CSP-Solano AAB900 pilot rehabilitation program has the potential to reduce recidivism and to consequently reduce prison populations in California, which will result in cost savings to the State. This is an experimental program that does not have assurance of future funding.

Board of Supervisors Response to Finding #4

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

Recommendation #4

The Grand Jury recommends that the California State Legislature continue to fund the CSP-Solano pilot rehabilitation program.

Board of Supervisors Response to Recommendation #4

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