

DIVISION OF ADULT OPERATIONS
CALIFORNIA MEDICAL FACILITY
P. O. BOX 2000
VACAVILLE, CA 95696-2000



June 15, 2009

Solano County Grand Jury
Hall of Justice
600 Union Avenue
Fairfield, CA 94533

Dear Grand Jury Members:

The California Medical Facility (CMF) is in receipt of the 2008-2009 Solano County Grand Jury report. Following is my response to the findings and recommendations in this report:

FINDING 1: The staff appear to be managing the California Medical Facility well, given that the present population is near capacity.

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

RESPONSE: CMF is in agreement with the Solano County Grand Jury's recommendation and is currently working in cooperation with the California Prison Health Care Receivership on the Health Care Facility Improvement Program which would include the renovation and possible expansion of medical, mental health and dental programs at the California Medical Facility.

FINDING 2: Possession and use of smuggled cellular phones by prison inmates poses a serious security that is not being adequately addressed within the prison system.

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.

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.

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RESPONSE: CMF is in agreement with the Solano County Grand Jury's recommendation the California State Legislature pass legislation that will make cellular phone possession by a prison inmate a felony punishable by an additional prison sentence and legislation that will make it a felony for staff or visitors to provide inmates with cell phones.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 707-449-6500.

Sincerely,


KATHLEEN L. DICKINSON
Warden (A)