



September 18, 2007

The Honorable David Richmond
Presiding Judge, Superior Court
County of Amador
500 Argonaut Lane
Jackson, California 95642

Re: 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report – Response by the Amador County Board of Supervisors

Dear Judge Richmond:

The Amador County Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report. The information provided in the report is informative and would not otherwise be available without the time and effort of the Grand Jury participants. The Board of Supervisors thanks the Grand Jury participants for their dedication.

Listed below you will find not only agency responses but also the Board of Supervisors' response to each finding and recommendation for which the Board of Supervisors was requested to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report.

Amador County Detention Center

Finding #1: Despite the recent improvements, the detention center is an old and obsolete facility that no longer meets the necessary requirements to house both male and female inmates, safely and efficiently, at the local level.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with Finding #1.

Jail overcrowding coupled with the current staffing levels creates a potentially dangerous situation for inmates and staff. Besides the current Jail being outlived, current mandated programs such as Inmate Rehabilitation, Program Management, and Direct Supervision of Inmates were not programs the current facility was originally designed to accommodate. These three programs are mandated to help reduce inmate recidivism rates, thus potentially reducing to the inmate population. Mandated programs that the Amador County Sheriff's Jail currently provides are; Drug and Alcohol Counseling, AA meetings, Chaplain Programs, Medical Services, Mental Health Services, Inmate Visitation, Parenting Skills, Recreational Programs, Family Reunification Services, Educational Programs, Library Services, and a

Legal Research Program among others. Currently, these programs must be held in the jail library, in inmate visitation, or in the jail medical office when they are not in use. Successful programs of this type have proven to help inmates become productive members of society and keep them from returning to custody, thereby reducing jail populations.

The Amador County Sheriff's Detention Center, in an effort to keep the inmate population at the Corrections and Standards Authority rated bed capacity of 76 inmates, is utilizing Alternative Sentencing Programs such as Early Release per Penal Code Section 4024.1, Work Release programs per Penal Code Section 4024.2 and 4024.3, and Home Electronic Monitoring programs per Penal Code Section 1208.2 and 1203.016. Of the total inmate jail population, 12.5% are out of custody on some form of Alternative Sentencing Program.

Currently, the Amador County Sheriff's Detention Center has 10 inmates on the Home Electronic Monitoring program and 2 inmates on Sheriff's Parole and our inmate population in the jail on July 3, 2007, was 86. Without the Alternative Sentencing programs in place, the Amador County Sheriff's Jail would house 96 inmates, 20 more than the Corrections and Standards Authority rated capacity. Housing inmates above the rated capacity exposes the county to potential and costly lawsuits.

The Amador County Sheriff's Detention Center is historically over capacity, understaffed and in need of revitalization through the expansion of the current facility or a new facility with appropriate staffing, inmate capacity, and program space.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: The Amador County Board of Supervisors should approve the Sheriff's Department's request to do a facility needs assessment with respect to building a new detention center. In addition, the Board of Supervisors should join the Sheriff's Department in aggressively pursuing the construction of a new detention center in the near future.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has not yet been implemented.

The Amador County Sheriff's Office has submitted a Letter of Intent to the Corrections and Standards Authority to conduct a Facility Needs Assessment pursuant to Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). The Amador County Sheriff's Office has developed, and submitted to Amador County, a Request for Proposal for the Facility Needs Assessment. This is the critical and mandatory first step in correctly identifying our actual detention facility needs and communicating those needs to the Board of Supervisors, our community, and to the Corrections and Standards Authority. Title 24, CCR, requires this step in order to qualify for local jail construction funding through grants and other resources provided through the Governor's recent signing of Assembly Bill 900.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding. A Needs Assessment process was started in July 2007.

Westover Field (Amador County Airport)

Finding #1: There are no delineated parking areas for vehicles inside the airport controlled perimeter.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #2: General Services Administration procedures allow the GSAD to designate areas for parking. The American Disabilities Act must be considered in establishing parking areas.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #3: The GSAD and staff have proposed future delineated parking in the next revision of the Westover Field Master Plan.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: With respect to the vehicles parked in close proximity to the General Services Administration buildings, the GSAD should continue to monitor the area for future parking violations.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has been implemented for General Services to continue monitoring the area for future parking violations. General Services' staff is informed of parking restrictions and reports violations to the General Services Director as they are observed.

Response by Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented.

Recommendation #2: With respect to vehicles parked inside the airport fence, the GSAD should continue to seek approval for designated parking areas in the Westover Field Master Plan.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has not been implemented. The most current Master Plan was approved on April 10, 2007, by the Board of Supervisors and subsequently the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) accepted the

Master Plan on May 4, 2007. The update of a Master Plan requires grant funding by the FAA, updating the Airport Layout Plan (ALP) and the utilization of a consultant to project future growth and those requirements to accommodate that growth. The FAA recommends updating the Master Plan every ten (10) years. The cost to update the most current Master Plan was \$150,000.00; not including the County's five and a half percent (5.5%) portion. Due to the requirements outlined above, the most prudent method to show minor changes (i.e. designated parking) would be to amend the ALP. Only when significant changes to the projections of the Master Plan are discovered or recommended, is it necessary to change or update the Master Plan. The ALP is the document used to track and update changes to the airport that is eventually incorporated into the Master Plan. Therefore, the General Services Director has identified potential locations for designated parking areas inside the airport fence and will seek to incorporate said parking into the current ALP. Changes to the ALP are made at the conclusion of each grant funded project. Currently two grant applications are in FAA's possession awaiting approval. If funding is available, approval for these projects is expected in late 2007.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors supports the GSAD in obtaining grant funding for the ALP changes.

Airport Master Plan

Finding #1: Revisions to the Westover Field Master Plan have been submitted to and approved by the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: The GSAD and staff should continue to pursue approval of the Westover Field Master Plan.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has been implemented; the Westover Field Master Plan was approved by the Board of Supervisors on April 10, 2007, and subsequently the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) accepted the Master Plan on May 4, 2007.

Response by Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented.

Airport Hangars

Finding #1: Inspection efforts will take a few months to complete at the present rate.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #2 Tenants found in violation of building and/or fire codes will be noticed in writing by the General Services Administration.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #3 Records of violations and subsequent corrective measures will be kept by the General Services Administration.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #4 The General Services Administration Airport Manager and county enforcement officials monitor the corrective measures as to violations as required.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #5 The Amador County Land Use Agency and GSAD are working together to accomplish previous Grand Jury recommendations relating to hangar inspections and should be commended on their efforts.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: The Amador County Land Use Agency should continue to perform building and fire code inspections on an annual basis and document violations for review by the GSAD quarterly. The findings of the inspections should be forwarded to the Amador County Board of Supervisors for review as well.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has been implemented. Inspections have been conducted and continue to be conducted. Findings of the inspections are being giving to the Amador County Board of Supervisors.

Response by Board of Supervisors: This recommendation has been implemented.

Hangars No. 3 through No. 6

Finding #1 The fifth wheel trailer/mobile home that had been located behind hangar No. 6 has been moved, and is now located next to hangar No. 5.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Recommendation #1: Parking areas near hangars as provided for in lease agreement should be clarified to avoid misunderstanding.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation requires further analysis; clarification is needed to demarcate property in this area leased by tenants. This particular issue will be scheduled to be heard by the Airport Advisory Committee (comprised of 10 members appointed by the Board of Supervisors) this year (2007) to provide advice to the General Services Administration Director. The General Services Administration Director will then prepare recommendations for the Airport Committee (comprised of two members of the Board of Supervisors).

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors awaits the recommendation of the Airport Advisory Committee and the Airport Committee.

Recommendation #2: The building inspection officials and General Services Administration staff should re-inspect hangars No. 3 through No. 6 for building and fire code compliance.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation has not yet been implemented. Hangar Numbers #3 and #6 have been re-inspected and results of the inspections will be mailed by October 1, 2007. Hanger #4 has not been re-inspected and is scheduled to be inspected by September 15, 2007. Hanger #5 has not been re-inspected and is scheduled to be inspected by October 1, 2007.

Response by Board of Supervisors: This recommendation will be implemented by October 31, 2007.

Recommendation #3: Amador County should remove all vehicles that are parked around hangars No. 3 through No. 6 in violation of Westover Field Code section 12.44.250.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable at this time. The General Services Administration Director is working with County Counsel, Sheriff's Office, and Code Enforcement to comply with Westover Field Code section 12.44.250. Currently the way the code is written, it assumes designated parking areas currently exist. At this time the Code is unreasonable based on the fact no designated parking areas currently exist. This matter is expected to be resolved within the fiscal year of 07/08.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors will monitor the resolution of this recommendation.

Airport Electricity Usage

Finding #1 The GSAD and staff are reviewing all lease agreements relating to the airport.

Response by Department Head: The respondent agrees with the finding.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #2 The GSAD and staff are considering excluding County responsibility for payment of electrical usage in future lease agreements.

Response by Department Head: The respondent disagrees with the finding in part. The finding does not differentiate between hangars with ground leases and community hangars. The aforementioned is applicable only to community hangars.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors partially agrees with this finding in that this finding is only applicable to community hangars.

Recommendation #1: The GSAD and staff should continue to review airport lease agreements to determine whether the County should be responsible for payment of electricity usage in the future.

Response by Department Head: The recommendation requires further analysis. There is no need to review existing lease agreements because tenants located in community hangars do not have lease agreements. Past practice was to issue community hangar tenants thirty (30) day parking permits. The determination as to whether or not lease agreements are more appropriate for the use requires further research and consideration by the General Services Administration Director and County Counsel. Review of community hangar permits and how electrical usage is paid for and allocated will be discussed with the Airport Advisory Committee prior to the end of the year (2007). The County is responsible for payment of electricity usage by hangar tenants with ground leases and then receives reimbursement for electrical usage.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors awaits the recommendations of the Airport Committee on this matter.

Grand Jury Facilities and Equipment

Finding #1: Most of the Grand Jury's equipment issues were properly addressed by the Facilities and Equipment Committee during the year.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

Finding #2: However, the one issue that remains outstanding is the physical location of the Grand Jury Office. The current Grand Jury Office is completely inadequate. Furthermore, the building itself is old and decrepit. Part of the exterior wall siding is falling off. The interior ceiling tiles have water damage and are beginning to fall. The carpets are worn and dirty. It is truly an insufficient space to do business.

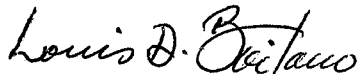
Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees and is currently working with the GSA Director to find appropriate and adequate space for the Grand Jury Office.

Recommendation #1: The 2006-2007 Grand Jury recommends that the Amador County Board of Supervisors immediately re-locate the Amador County Grand Jury Office to a facility that will accommodate all nineteen sworn members at the same time while providing the necessary associated space for data, records, files and conducting business in a confidential and secure environment.

Response by Board of Supervisors: The Board of Supervisors agrees and is currently working with the GSA Director to find appropriate and adequate space for the Grand Jury Office.

Thank you for allowing the Amador County Board of Supervisors the opportunity to respond to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury Report. Hopefully the information contained within this response addresses any questions or concerns the Grand Jury may have regarding the policies, procedures, and functions of services being provided by Amador County. Should there be remaining questions please do not hesitate to contact County Administrative Officer Terri Daly or me.

Sincerely,



Louis D. Boitano, Chairman
Amador County Board of Supervisors

c: Ms. Terri Daly, County Administrative Officer
Ms. Martha Shaver, County Counsel
The Honorable Martin Ryan, Sheriff-Coroner
Mr. Jon Hopkins, General Services Administration Director
Amador Ledger-Dispatch Newspaper
Hometown Radio
TSPN
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