

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY JAIL

AUTHORITY

California Penal Code §919(b) states that “The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county”.

METHOD

In December 2007, the Grand Jury met with Sheriff Patrick Hedges and his staff at the County Jail, which is located at the County Operations Center, located at 1585 Kansas Avenue, San Luis Obispo. The sheriff and members of his staff made a presentation that described the operations of the County Jail. After the meeting, the Grand Jury conducted an inspection of the main jail facilities.

NARRATIVE

The physical capacity of the jail is rated at 518 prisoners. The average daily population (ADP) was 557 in 2007. There are 17 officers allocated per shift; on average, there are 14 officers working per shift to supervise the inmate population. Prisoners are usually held for one year or less in the County Jail. Six months is the average incarceration time.

The women’s section of the jail has an area rated for 43 beds, but there are a total of 82 sleeping spaces, which includes mattresses placed on the floor, as well as the beds. As a means of meeting this need for additional beds, plans for a new women’s jail and medical facility have been underway for two years. Currently, the County has allocated over two million dollars for the design phase which should be completed by July 2008. Until the County determines how it intends to fund the 40 million dollar construction phase, a start date has not been determined.

Overview:

	Jan. 2008 Thru Mar. 2008	2007	2006
ADP* for the entire Jail	567	557	473
Total Jail Staff**	163	163	161
ADP* for Women's Jail	81	81	80
Total Jail Capacity	518	518	518
Number of Arrests in SLO County	3,872	15,987	15,259
Total Inmates Booked	4,699	19,822	18,718

* Average Daily Population

** Includes Officers, support and clerical staff

The plan for the new Women's Jail calls for a dormitory and a single cell section. The design capacity of the two housing units in the new women's jail will be:

- Pod 1 – 96-bed dormitory
- Pod 2 – 48 single cells capable of doubling to provide 96 beds.
- In addition, there are six special use cells, which brings the total number of beds to 198.

CONCLUSION

While the overcrowding has been a major problem for several years, it is the Grand Jury's opinion that the facility continues to operate efficiently. The chart above provides a summary of Average Daily Population and highlights the ongoing chronic overcrowding problem. The County must find the necessary funds to construct the new Women's Jail and Medical facility.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

No responses to this report are required.