

# SHORT TERM HOLDING CELLS

## AUTHORITY

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

## INTRODUCTION

These short term cells are located at seven city police departments and the county court- house. Police department holding cells are intended to hold prisoners temporarily while booking procedures are completed. After booking, prisoners may either be released or transported to the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff’s Department Jail. The cells at the courthouse are used to hold prisoners while going through the court process. The Grand Jury was briefed on the outcome of last year’s Recommendations relating to the prisoner transportation. The Jury also asked the departments to provide examples of some of their community service programs.

### Inspection Sites:

- |                              |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. City of Arroyo Grande     | Police Department |
| 2. City of Pismo Beach       | Police Department |
| 3. City of Grover Beach      | Police Department |
| 4. City of Morro Bay         | Police Department |
| 5. City of San Luis Obispo   | Police Department |
| 6. City of Atascadero        | Police Department |
| 7. City of Paso Robles       | Police Department |
| 8. County of San Luis Obispo | Superior Court    |

## METHOD

Members of the Grand Jury toured and inspected each of the City Police Departments and the Superior Court. Each inspection included a facility tour and an interview with the department staff. The Grand Jury was briefed on the department policies and procedures. Copies were made available to the Jury.

Prisoners may be booked and released from the police departments or transported to the San Luis Obispo County Jail. This generally is a short process, and the prisoner may not actually be put into a holding cell during booking. In some situations the prisoner is taken directly to the Sheriff's Department for booking. The holding cells within each of the listed facilities are intended for short term use, usually less than 6 hours. The actual holding cells use was found to be generally less than 2 hours.

The Grand Jury found the holding cells to be clean and neat.

In addition to the Grand Jury's inspection, other inspections of the holding cells include:

1. Local department in-house inspections.
2. San Luis Obispo County Health Agency
  - A. Local Detention Facility Health Inspection Report
  - B. Food Inspection Report
3. State inspections
  - A. Fire and Life Safety Inspection report
  - B. Corrections Standards Authority biennial report
  - C. Juvenile Justice Commission Lock-up Facility inspection report

### **Police Department Community Service Programs:**

The Grand Jury inspection process of the local law enforcement agencies gave the Jury the opportunity to talk to staff in each department. Some of the departments provided the Jury with a list of community service activities. Community service programs include items such as:

- **School events:**
  - DARE Programs
  - Career Days
  - Cops and Kids
  - Safety Presentation
- **Community and Service Group presentations:**
  - Neighborhood Watch
  - Internet safety presentation
  - Child seat clinics
  - Mock bank robberies
  - Crime free community housing
- **Community events:**
  - Special Olympics
  - K9 demonstration
  - Community festivals
  - Charity events
  - Car shows
  - Parades
  - Fishing Derby
- **Kids events:**
  - Bicycle Safety
  - Cops and Kids Days
  - Down hill Derby
  - Zoo Boo

One of the most popular community programs is Bikes for Needy Kids. Bicycles from all over the county are collected, rebuilt and given to needy children in December. The County Jail has an inmate program that refurbishes the bikes. Bicycles used in the program are donated by local stores, found abandoned or turned in to the local police departments.

## **2006 - 2007 GRAND JURY REPORT FOLLOW-UP**

The Grand Jury report of 2006 -2007 made a recommendation for the local cities and county to study the feasibility of a county wide prisoner transport program. The concept was based on the idea of reducing the cost and impact of transporting prisoners to the sheriffs department. A task force reviewed the concept and determined it was not feasible.

### **FINDINGS**

The Grand Jury found the short term holding cells within the County of San Luis Obispo to be clean, well maintained and professionally managed.

### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

No responses to this report are required.