



# SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF - CORONER

# FILED

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SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER  
CLERK OF THE COURT  
By J. Paul Parker Deputy

To: Chris Chandler, Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of Sutter

From: J. Paul Parker, Sheriff-Coroner/Public Administrator

Subject: **Response to the 2008-2009 Grand Jury Final Report**

The following are the responses of the Sheriff-Coroner/Public Administrator to the findings and recommendations of the 2008-2009 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report.

## **CONTINUITY COMMITTEE (pages 41-44)**

### **The Gang Task Force**

**Findings:** *The Grand Jury finds the formation of the Sutter County Gang Task Force is a positive step in creating a proactive community. NET-5 assistance in the day to day operations provides guidance to the Gang Task Force.*

*The Grand Jury finds the Sutter County Gang Task Force proactive in educating the community in all aspects of gang activity.*

*The Grand Jury finds the Sutter County Gang Task Force embracing the challenges before them. They continue to be creative in their investigations despite the limited funding.*

**Recommendations:** *The recommendations include continuing our efforts into researching grants to further assist the Sutter County Gang Task Force, continue training to qualify officers as expert witnesses and expand community awareness programs by sponsoring or offering additional public information forums.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury. Recommendations have been implemented and we are continuing our efforts in researching for additional grants on the State and Federal levels to expand our Gang Task Force mission. We have, and are continually training our staff to become experts in the area of gangs. We will continue our efforts in providing in house training and sending our deputies to gang training courses whenever there is an opportunity and funding available. Our sheriff's department continues to educate the public by holding public forums throughout the County. We have been reaching out to our local schools through our gang experts and School Resource Officers to educate the public in gang awareness. We are strongly committed in suppressing gang violence.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE (pages 47-54)**  
**Sutter County Jail**

**Findings:** The Grand Jury finds the Jail is operating well, despite the financial difficulties all areas of the county are experiencing.

*The Grand Jury finds the current air conditioner system still needs to be replaced, the control panel updated and completed, as well as other refurbishing.*

*The Grand Jury finds there are no open positions within the Sutter County Sheriff's Department and no staff shortage was noted. However, Sheriff Parker stated he constantly recruits new personnel.*

*The Grand Jury finds the Sheriff's office was following the Rules and Regulations of the Work Release/Work Furlough program, discovered flaws, developed ways to improve it and immediately implemented the new changes.*

*The Grand Jury also finds and supports the minimum-security area status change to a medium-security area, freeing up more usable medium-security bed space.*

**Recommendations:**

- 1. The Grand Jury recommends the current cooling system be replaced. There are certain times of the year the current equipment inadequately cools the facility.*
- 2. The Grand Jury recommends The Board of Supervisors place the rearranging and upgrading of the minimum-security area and medium-security area in the Sutter County Jail as a high priority item on the next budget agenda.*
- 3. The Grand Jury recommends the Work Release/Work Furlough program continue to be assessed and revised as needed.*
- 4. The Grand Jury recommends The Sheriff and Board of Supervisors continue seeking a qualified company to replace the control panel and complete the project as soon as possible.*
- 5. The Grand Jury commends Sheriff Parker and his staff for a job well done.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury.

- 1. Recommendation is not being implemented. This recommendation was scheduled to be completed with \$150,000 budgeted in the 2008/09 budget. However, a study was conducted and Public Works Department has determined the cost to replace the current cooling system with a new Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning*

(HVAC) system at an unanticipated cost of approximately \$1,000,000, is too costly. The sheriff's department staff met with the County Administrative Office and the Public Works Department. It was determined that due to the economical challenges the State and County are facing, the cost to replace the HVAC system should be delayed until other alternatives can be studied. It was decided that the funds budgeted for a new system would be used to upgrade the current system at an approximate cost of \$90,000. The upgrade will give the current system three to five more years of service and increase its cooling capacity to what we hope is a tolerable level.

2. Recommendation is being implemented during this next fiscal year. Sutter County has budgeted \$512,000 for this project. Our Support Services Commander has already been in contact with California Correction Standards Authority, (CSA) who oversees any jail construction project for their review and approval.
3. Recommendation has been implemented. The Work Release/Work Furlough programs and the Electronic/Home Detention programs are effectively being used to manage inmate population. There has been an increase in participation in the Work Release program due to the cancellation of the jail weekender program. Because of the increase in the participation in the Work Release program a second Work Release Coordinator has been assigned to the program to ensure seven day coverage. The Electronic Monitoring/Home Detention Programs have been very effective in managing inmates with severe medical conditions keeping them out of custody, thereby saving the county thousands of dollars. The Work Release/Work Furlough and Electronic Monitoring/Home Detention programs are constantly being re-evaluated and we are prepared for the anticipated increase in inmate population in the event the state applies some or all of their proposals for reducing state inmates.
4. Recommendation has been implemented. The Support Services Commander has been working with the Public Works Department and a contract has been awarded to REM Construction, Paradise, California. Construction is expected to begin in September 2009 and completed in October 2009.

#### **AUDIT COMMITTEE (pages 1-2)**

##### **Department Purchasing and Financial Reconciliation**

**Findings:** *The Grand Jury finds the Sheriff's Department have systems to reconcile purchases to financial reports and have a good rapport with the Auditor-Controller's office.*

**Recommendations:** *The Grand Jury recommends individual departments create written policies and procedures to reconcile purchases to budget.*

**Response:** The Sheriff's Department concurs with the findings of the Grand Jury. The recommendations will be implemented and I look forward to meeting with and giving a progress report to next years Grand Jury as to job performance.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Paul Parker", written in a cursive style.

J. PAUL PARKER  
SHERIFF-CORONER

cc: Sutter County Board of Supervisors  
Larry T. Combs, County Administrative Officer