



**CONTRA COSTA COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT NO. 1508  
"THE UNDERUTILIZATION OF THE MARSH CREEK DETENTION FACILITY"**

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' RESPONSE**

**FINDINGS** – *California Penal Code Section 933.5(a) requires a response to the designated findings of the Grand Jury.*

**1. The MCDF uses 1/3 of its dormitory space.**

*Response: Agree.*

**2. The five-year average daily occupancy rate at the MCDF is 52 inmates, although there is capacity for 160 inmates.**

*Response: Agree.*

**3. MCDF, built in 1942, is 73 years old.**

*Response: Agree.*

**4. MCDF occupies 32 acres of a 164-acre parcel owned by the County at the southeastern foot of Mt. Diablo.**

*Response: Agree.*

**5. The Sheriff's Office has a shooting range and a training facility on the County's 164-acre parcel at the southeastern foot of Mt. Diablo.**

*Response: Agree.*

**6. There are six dormitory wings at the MCDF.**

*Response: Agree.*

**7. The MCDF dormitory, Wings F and G, are permanently closed, Wings B and C are open; and Wings A and D are closed but could re-open if the flooring were reinforced.**

*Response: Partially Disagree. To clarify, Wings D and E are currently being used to house inmates and Wings B and C could be used immediately if needed.*

**8. Barbed wire fences surround the perimeter of the MCDF.**

*Response: Agree.*

**9. MCDF is a low-security prison.**

Response: Partially Disagree. MCDF is a county adult detention facility for sentenced inmates. The facility is not classified as a prison.

**10. MCDF lacks security cameras.**

Response: Partially Disagree. The MCDF has security cameras monitoring two secured holding cells related to detention transportation and the Sheriff's Range facility.

**11. The Sheriff's Office does not transfer offenders who are flight risks and prone to violence to the MCDF because it lacks adequate security.**

Response: Agree. The MCDF environment is not designed for inmates classified as violent and/or a flight risk.

**12. One Contra Costa County Deputy Sheriff is on duty at night at the MCDF.**

Response: Disagree. Minimum staffing maintained at the MCDF is at least one Sergeant and two Deputy Sheriff positions at all times.

**13. There are minimal behavioral conflicts at the MCDF.**

Response: Agree.

**14. The infirmary at the MCDF is open 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday.**

Response: Agree.

**15. Inmates needing access to medical personnel 24-hours a day, such as those with cardiac and pulmonary issues, diabetes, asthma and severe allergies, may not be housed at the MCDF.**

Response: Partially Disagree. Medical conditions alone do not exclude inmates from having the opportunity to be housed at the MCDF.

**16. The MCDF lacks a pharmacy.**

Response: Agree.

**17. The MCDF inmates have opportunities for rehabilitation.**

Response: Agree.

**18. The Sheriff's Office provides classes for personal growth, academic education and job skills to inmates at the MCDF.**

Response: Agree.

**19. Gang issues are a primary reason why Martinez Detention Facility inmates do not eat in a communal setting or take group classes.**

Response: Partially Disagree. There are many issues that contribute to population management within the Martinez Detention Facility (MDF). Gang affiliation is a factor; however, type of offense, criminal history, and special needs housing (e.g. sex offender, gang drop-out) also play a significant role in how inmates are allowed to interact with one another in the facility.

**20. Inmates at the Martinez Detention Facility are released to an interior room and a cement-walled courtyard for one to three hours either once a day or every other day, based on an inmate's classification.**

Response: Partially Disagree. During "Free-Time" inmates are allowed between 1-3 hours in the exterior courtyard each day. The remainder of the day, inmates are allowed access to common areas.

**21. In August 2015, there are plans to submit an application on behalf of Contra Costa County, for \$90 million of State funds made available pursuant to Senate Bill 863. The funds will be used to build a 240-bed mental health wing at the WCDF.**

Response: Partially Disagree. The application will include not only mental-health space, but also 22,000 square feet for important re-entry programming for inmates.

**22. If the State awards Contra Costa County with Senate Bill 863 funds, the Sheriff's Office estimates that construction of the 240-bed mental health wing at the WCDF will be completed by late 2018 or early 2019.**

Response: Partially Disagree. If approved, the new facility is scheduled to be completed in late 2019.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** - California Penal Code Section 933.05(b) requires a response to the designated recommendations of the Grand Jury.

**1. The Sheriff's Office should consider ways to fund the restoration of MCDF Wings A and B.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. Wing B has been fully restored.

**2. The Sheriff's Office should consider providing medical staffing 24-hours a day, seven days a week and a pharmacy at the MCDF, and ways to fund such staffing and the pharmacy.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. For FY 2015/16, the Community Corrections Partnership budget includes Family Nurse Practitioner, Registered Nurse and Mental Health Clinical Specialist positions for the MCDF.

**3. Once Recommendations 1 - 2 have been accomplished, the Sheriff's Office should consider broadening the classification of MCDF inmates so that the facility will be fully utilized.**

Response: The recommendation has been implemented. The Sheriff's Office consistently reviews inmate eligibility to be housed at the MCDF.

**4. If the State does not award SB 863 jail construction funds to the County, the Sheriff's Office should consider alternative plans and associated funding methods to reduce inmate occupancy at the Martinez Detention Facility.**

Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be once the outcome of the SB 863 grant process is known.