

**MEMORANDUM**  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
COUNTY OF PLACER

**TO:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Thomas M. Miller, Placer County Executive Officer  
By: Michael E. Paddock, Senior Management Analyst 

**DATE:** September 9, 2008

**SUBJECT:** Final Report / Response 2007-08 Grand Jury – Burton Creek Facility

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Action Requested:

Review and consider formal response of the Board of Supervisors to the conclusions and recommendations of the 2007-08 Placer County Grand Jury – Annual Inspection of the Placer County Sheriff's Burton Creek Facility and authorize the Chairman to sign and submit the response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court.

Background:

On June 19, 2008 the Placer County Grand Jury released its Final Report for 2007-08. The Report includes findings and recommendations related to the annual inspection of the Burton Creek Facility. Your Board is identified as a respondent to the Report which requires a formal reply to the conclusions and recommendations of the Grand Jury. On behalf of your Board, staff has completed a formal response for your review, consideration and approval. A copy of the Final Report and the detailed response is attached to this memorandum.

Summary – Findings / Recommendations:

The Grand Jury finds the Burton Creek Facility to be inadequate for its current purpose and function and has recommended that it should be replaced. The Report of the Grand Jury contains a recommendation to make replacement of this facility a "higher priority" and build it sooner than 2011. As indicated in the formal Response of your Board that is attached to this memorandum, the recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable, practical or feasible to construct a replacement facility sooner than the target date of 2011. The timing for this project is based on several project steps including developing a suitable site, building space programming, preparing construction documents for bid solicitation as well as the stringent environmental review and compliance under the CEQA and the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, TRPA, as the regional oversight body. Staff has estimated that given the complexity of this project and its location it would not be possible to complete a replacement facility sooner than 2011.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the requested action.

# County of Placer Board of Supervisors

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District 5



September 9, 2008

The Honorable Larry Gaddis  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Placer  
10820 Justice Center Drive  
Roseville, CA 95661

Subject: 2007-08 Final Report of the Placer County Grand Jury –  
Annual Inspection of the Placer County Sheriff's Department Burton  
Creek Facility

Dear Judge Gaddis:

On behalf of the Placer County Board of Supervisors I am pleased to submit our response to the 2007-08 Final Report of the Placer County Grand Jury – Annual Inspection of the Placer County Sheriff's Department Burton Creek Facility. We have carefully reviewed the conclusions and recommendations contained in the Final Report including the responses from the Placer County Sheriff Edward Bonner. We have also consulted the Director of Facilities Services to gain his insights and comments related to the construction schedule for the replacement facility. Our response to conclusion / recommendation # 5 as designated by the Grand Jury follows below.

#### **Conclusions / Recommendations**

The Grand Jury has the following recommendations.

5. The County Supervisors should make the new facility a higher priority and build it sooner than currently projected.

#### Response:

The Board of Supervisors is committed to providing improved criminal justice facilities that will ensure a high level of public safety to residents of the County and visitors alike. Recently, the County completed a \$51 million dollar, nine court room Justice Courthouse in the South Placer area and within the new Placer County Bill Santucci Justice Center to replace aging and inefficient facilities throughout the County. In addition, the County is in the process of planning and designing a new and modern jail facility at the Justice Center adjacent to the new courthouse.

The new jail is scheduled for completion in 2012 to meet the projected inmate population demand and increase public safety. Likewise, replacement of the Burton Creek Facility with a new and modern Sheriff's substation in Tahoe is a priority of the County to meet the goal of improving criminal justice facilities. However, the recommendation above will not be implemented because it is not reasonable, practical or feasible to complete construction and occupancy of a replacement facility sooner than the target date of 2011. As stated in the Board's response to this same recommendation in 2006-07, the timing for this major project is based on developing a suitable building site, building space programming, construction drawings and plans, bid proposal and solicitation, reviewing bids, negotiating and awarding construction contract, final construction and occupancy. In addition, this project is subject to stringent environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and regional review, oversight and compliance by the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA), which may extend the time necessary to complete a project of this scope and complexity. However, this Board, the County Executive Officer and the Director of Facility Services remain committed to a replacement facility in Tahoe for the Sheriff and will ensure that it is completed within a reasonable and practical time frame.

Sincerely,

COUNTY OF PLACER

Jim Holmes, District 3 Supervisor  
Chairman of Placer County Board of Supervisors

JH/MEP/br

Cc: Thomas M. Miller, County Executive Officer  
Rich Colwell, Chief Assistant County Executive Officer  
Mike Boyle, Assistant County Executive Officer  
Holly Heinzen, Assistant County Executive Officer  
Anthony La Bouff, County Counsel  
Edward N. Bonner, Placer County Sheriff-Coroner Marshal  
Gerald Carden, Chief Deputy County Counsel  
Jim Durfee, Director, Facility Services  
Mary Dietrich, Assistant Director, Facility Services

# ANNUAL INSPECTION OF THE PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BURTON CREEK FACILITY

## SUMMARY

The Grand Jury conducted its annual inspection of the Placer County Sheriff's Burton Creek Facility. Past grand juries have noted the inadequacies of this facility for several years. Despite the space limitations, the Grand Jury was impressed with the creativity and utilization of space by the personnel to carry out their duties for the community they serve.

## BACKGROUND

Every year the Grand Jury is mandated by Penal Code Section 919(b) to conduct an on-site inspection of all city police stations, county sheriff's operations, and jail facilities within Placer County. The Grand Jury conducted an inspection of the Sheriff's Department Burton Creek Facility, located in Tahoe City, on October 9, 2007. The inspection included the facility, the personnel staff, training and development, and the operational aspects of the facility such as maintenance, cleanliness, and the overall appearance of the building and surrounding areas.

## INVESTIGATION METHODS

The Grand Jury contacted the Burton Creek officer in charge, Captain Jeff Granum, to schedule an appointment to tour their facility and to interview personnel. The Grand Jury used inspection forms to guide them through the process. The jurors took notes and asked questions regarding operation and management of the facility. A question-and-answer session was held after the tour to clear up any other questions the Grand Jurors had about the facility, operational aspects, and personnel.

## FACTS

The Burton Creek Facility was built in 1959 just prior to the 1960 Olympics in Squaw Valley. For many years it housed all of the North Tahoe branches of

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Placer County offices, which included the Sheriff, Planning, District Attorney, Courts, and a small jail. The two-story building was twice expanded and some departments moved into other leased facilities in the area as space became scarce. Due to space limitations, the Patrol Division is based in a leased facility in Carnelian Bay.

Currently Burton Creek houses the Sheriff's Department, District Attorney, and the Superior Courts. It is a normal Type I facility, but it does not hold detainees overnight. Through an arrangement between Nevada County and Placer County, Nevada County takes detainees at night and on weekends.

The Burton Creek Facility is authorized to be staffed with approximately 60 employees. Its yearly budget is \$10 million dollars, 65% for salaries and the balance for operational functions. They have 18 deputies and six sergeants assigned to patrol, three deputies and a sergeant assigned to investigations, two community service officers and a sergeant assigned to community services. They also have two school resource officers assigned to the high school and middle school. The administrative personnel include two records/reception clerks, an administrative secretary, an evidence technician, an auto service worker, two jail deputies, a lieutenant and a captain.

Their dispatch center has an authorized staff of 12 but is running at less than half of that, because of the difficulty in recruiting, hiring, and retaining personnel in the department. Because of staffing shortages, dispatch has become a five-day-a-week operation with two shifts. The Auburn Dispatch Center handles the hours not covered by Burton Creek.

Because of the high cost of housing, about half of the employees commute long distances to get to work. Some travel from as far away as Lincoln, Elk Grove, Yuba City, and Reno. Turn-over at the facility is about 33% every year because of high housing costs, hard winters, and extended travel times.

The deputies accomplish their patrol tasks with four-wheel-drive vehicles, bicycles, snowmobiles, horseback, and on foot. The peak seasons are summer and winter for visitors. The full-time population in the area is about 7,500 but during peak times the population grows to about 103,000. In the future it is

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expected that the full-time population will grow due to new year-round destinations expected to be developed in the area.

Captain Granum stated that he wanted to divide the Northern Patrol Area 3, because of its large size, and create a fourth patrol area. He said this would provide better coverage for the northern area. The fourth area would require four new deputies and two vehicles.

Captain Granum also would like to implement a Citizens on Patrol program (COP) to relieve the patrol deputies from tasks that could be handled by volunteer personnel. Some additional vehicles and training would be required to accomplish this objective.

Crime is low in the area. Basic enforcement issues are fires, domestic violence, traffic, and drug and alcohol issues.

The building definitely shows its age and deteriorating state. The paved area around the facility is a series of patches. It's not fully compliant with ADA requirements, for instance it doesn't have an elevator. A new facility is scheduled to be constructed; the county hopes it will be in operation in five to seven years.

**FINDINGS**

The Grand Jury found that the Burton Creek substation and its staff are in compliance with Penal code Section 919(b) as far as processing and holding detainees. The facility is not completely ADA-compliant, thus it doesn't meet public needs as required. The management and staff are doing an excellent job despite an inadequate facility.

**CONCLUSIONS / RECOMMENDATIONS**

Based on our inspection, the Grand Jury recommends:

- 1) Review the possibility of expanding patrol areas from three to four.
- 2) If the COP program is implemented and a new patrol area is created, obtain additional vehicles.

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- 3) Implement a COP program (Citizens On Patrol) to relieve the patrol deputies of some duties that do not require a sworn officer.
- 4) Recruit and train additional dispatch personnel and provide incentives to retain these employees.
- 5) The County Supervisors should make the new facility a higher priority and build it sooner than currently projected.

**REQUEST FOR RESPONSE(S)**

The Grand Jury requests a response from:

- ▶ Edward Bonner – #1,2,3,4  
Placer County Sheriff  
P.O. Box 6990  
Auburn, CA 95604
- ▶ Placer County Board of Supervisors - #5  
175 Fulweiler Avenue  
Auburn, CA 95603

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