

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS**  
**SIERRA CONSERVATION CENTER**  
5100 O'Byrnes Ferry Road  
Jamestown CA 95327



July 3, 2018

Honorable Judge, Kate Segerstrom  
Tuolumne County Superior Court  
60 North Washington Street  
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Judge Segerstrom:

I have reviewed the 2017/2018 Tuolumne County Civil Grand Jury Report as it pertains to Sierra Conservation Center (SCC). I want to thank all of the jury members for their time and effort while visiting our facility and Baseline Conservation Camp, CC# 30.

I have reviewed the report findings and recommendations carefully and provide the following response:

- *Finding #1: According to the SCC's Corrective Action Plan as of May 2018, the hand-washing sink of the inmates' restroom in the Hazardous Materials / Motor Pool area still lacks a soap dispenser, as noted in the CDPH inspections report from August 2017.*
- *Recommendation #1: Install a soap dispenser at the hand-washing sink of the inmates' restroom in the Hazardous Materials / Motor Pool area.*

The recommendation has been implemented. The soap dispenser was installed in January of 2018. However, it was not accurately captured in our internal Corrective Action Plan.

- *Finding #2: According to the SCC's Corrective Action Plan as of May 2018, the upper-level shower of Building 2 in Facility C is still awaiting remediation of the mold and deteriorated paint that were noted in the CDPH inspection report from August 2017.*
- *Recommendation #2: Remedy the mold and deteriorated paint in the upper-level shower of Building 2 in Facility C.*

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, due to pending approval and funding from California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Headquarters. This recommendation will be implemented in the future once funding has been secured. SCC has previously submitted a special repair request to CDCR Headquarters for funds to repair all of the showers on Facility C. CDCR Headquarters requested additional information on April 16, 2018, which we have provided and are now awaiting approval. As with all state agencies, funding may be granted or pulled depending on other budget shortfalls which are outside of SCC's control.

- *Finding #3: Temperatures as recorded in the SCC facilities that were monitored did not reach as high as 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Temperatures were not recorded in many section of the prison.*

- Recommendation #3: *Consider recording temperatures in Facility A and other sections of the prison during summer months.*

The recommendation will not be implemented, as it is not warranted. The mandate of where and when temperatures are documented is directed by the courts through the Coleman lawsuit agreement between the plaintiffs and CDCR.

- Finding #4: *At least one safety warning displayed in Spanish in Facility C which reads, "NO SE AVISA PARA DISPARAR," imperfectly conveys the information shown in the parallel warning in English.*
- Recommendation #4: *Review all safety warnings displayed in Spanish or other foreign languages and revise any translations that are unclear.*

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The specific translation identified by the Grand Jury was discussed with a certified Spanish interpreter, and although imperfect it does effectively convey the message there are no warning shots fired in the building.

- Finding #5: *The SCC's current practice of declining to evaluate and inmate's "satisfactory participation" in connection with awarding credits for RAC programs leaves considerable room for inmate manipulation of the system for earning rehabilitative program credits.*
- Recommendation #5: *Select and make known to the inmates one or more measures, in addition to mere physical presence, by which SCC staff or program facilitators will evaluate whether an inmate has met the "satisfactory participation" requirement for earning RAC hours credits.*

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. SCC staff and program facilitators monitor, evaluate, and audit attendance for all programs on an ongoing basis. RAC programs do not have course work or testing, so they do not have concrete methods other than participation and attendance to identify "satisfactory participation". SCC is following and applying RAC credits as outlined by the CDCR regulations regarding Proposition 57.

- Finding #6: *This year's Grand Jury's investigation was compromised by SCC management's refusal to abide by the confidentiality requirements of Grand Jury Investigations.*
- Recommendation #6: *Review and commit the SCC to full compliance with the confidentiality requirements of Grand Jury investigations including as follows:*

(a) *SCC managers who meet with the Grand Jury or its representatives shall read and sign the admonishment form;*

(b) *SCC management shall allow SCC staff who are being interviewed by the Grand Jury to sign the admonishment form;*

(c) *SCC management and staff shall refrain from discussing the Grand Jury's lines of questioning amongst themselves or asking SCC employees to disclose information requested by or provided to the Grand Jury, and*

*(d) Grand Jury members shall be permitted to interview inmates outside the presence of SCC management (albeit with correctional officer(s) present to the extent required by law);*

The recommendation requires further analysis. Previously SCC was directed by the CDCR attorneys in the Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) not to sign the Grand Jury admonishment form. This has been the practice of SCC since 2014 and was clearly communicated to the Grand Jury prior to scheduling the entrance meeting which occurred on November 29, 2017. Upon arrival, the Grand Jury was again asked if they wanted to continue without SCC staff signing the admonishment form and it was decided by the Grand Jury to continue with the entrance meeting. Various members of the Grand Jury visited on three subsequent trips, and although the issue of not signing the admonishment was broached at no point was it brought to SCC's attention this was an issue, which we needed to resolve or revisit with our attorneys. However, SCC has again reached out to the CDCR attorneys at OLA for clarification and we are awaiting a response.

At no time was it the intent of any SCC staff member to hinder, or impede the Grand Jurys investigation. SCC is dedicated to ensuring continued compliance with all rules, laws, and regulations as they relate to the Grand Jury. SCC will continue to provide transparency and access to the Grand Jury and will abide by the direction given by the OLA for the CDCR.

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the 2017/2018 Tuolumne County Civil Grand Jury Report satisfying the requirements of Penal Code 933.05.

If you have any questions, please contact Correctional Lieutenant Robert Kelsey, Administrative Assistant, at (209) 984-5291 extension 5499.

Sincerely,



HUNTER ANGLEA  
Warden (A)