

# **The Sutter County Board of Supervisors' Response to the**

**2019-2020**

## **Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report**



**Ronald Sullenger  
Dan Flores  
Mike Ziegenmeyer  
Jim Whiteaker  
Mat Conant**

**District No. 1  
District No. 2  
District No. 3  
District No. 4  
District No. 5**

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SEP 14 2020

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA  
COUNTY OF SUTTER



**County of Sutter**  
*Office of the County Administrator*

1160 Civic Center Boulevard  
Yuba City, California 95993  
Phone: (530) 822-7100 Fax: (530) 822-7103

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Susan E. Green  
Presiding Judge of the Sutter County Superior Court  
1175 Civic Center Boulevard  
Yuba City, CA 95993

Dear Judge Green:

On behalf of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors, I am herewith submitting its response to the findings and recommendations of the 2019-20 Grand Jury Final Report. The Board of Supervisors has responded to the following reports as requested by the Sutter County Grand Jury:

- Sutter County Jail
- Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility & the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center

The Sutter County Board of Supervisors and administration thanks the Grand Jurors for their service to the citizens of Sutter County. Grand Jury service requires a great amount of time and effort and each juror's dedication is truly appreciated.

I would be happy to meet with the Grand Jury to discuss any or all of these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "S.M. Smith", is written over a horizontal line.

Steven M. Smith  
County Administrator

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b><u>Subject</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
Sutter County Jail .....	4
Tri-Co Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility & Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center .....	6

## **Sutter County Jail**

The Board of Supervisors and Sutter County Sheriff were requested to respond to this report. Below is the response from the Board of Supervisors, developed in concert with the County Administrative Office. A response from the Sutter County Sheriff is attached.

### **FINDINGS**

#### **Grand Jury Finding #1:**

*"F1: There is a staffing issue within the Sutter County Sheriff's Jail facility."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #2:**

*"F2: The Sutter County Grand Jury found that there are drugs and other contraband present within the jail."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #3:**

*"F3: Lack of overhead netting in the medium security exercise yards."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #4:**

*"F4: The current search method for contraband has proven to be inadequate."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #5:**

*"F5: The laundry room has no surveillance cameras present."*

#### **Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

F1: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F2: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F3: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F4: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F5: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Grand Jury Recommendation #1:**

*“R1: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should expand jail employment to provide more manpower within the jail by December 1, 2021.”*

### **Grand Jury Recommendation #2:**

*“R2: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should invest in a full body scanner placed within the Sutter County Main jail by January 1, 2022.”*

### **Grand Jury Recommendation #3:**

*“R3: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should purchase and install overhead netting over the open-aired spaces/areas near the Medium Security facility and/or create a fenced off area preventing civilians from having access to this area by December 1, 2021.”*

### **Grand Jury Recommendation #4:**

*“R4: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should place surveillance cameras in the laundry room by January 1, 2021.”*

### **Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

R1: The Board of Supervisors places a priority on public safety. The County Administrative Office continues to work with the Sheriff to reduce turnover and quickly fill vacant positions. If necessary, the Board can consider adding positions when resources are available.

R2: The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors approved funding in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 budget for the purchase of a full body scanner on the previous recommendation of the Sheriff.

R3: The Board of Supervisors will consider this request when brought forward by the Sutter County Sheriff.

R4: The recommendation has been implemented. The Board of Supervisors was informed by the Sheriff of the installation of cameras in the laundry room and medium security courtyards.

## **Tri-County Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center**

The Board of Supervisors was requested to respond to this report. Below is the response from the Board of Supervisors, developed in concert with the County Administrative Office.

### **FINDINGS**

#### **Grand Jury Finding #1:**

*"F1: The carpet in the girl's dormitory of Juvenile Hall is old, torn and is presently a health and safety issue."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #2:**

*"F2: There lacks a structured and comprehensive "Life Skills" program."*

#### **Grand Jury Finding #3:**

*"F3: Exposure to technical/vocational career training and opportunities is limited."*

### **Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

F1: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

F2: The Board of Supervisors understands this finding was rescinded.

F3: The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Grand Jury Recommendation #1:**

*"R1: The Board of Supervisors give approval to replace the carpet or repair and sanitize the current carpet in the Juvenile Hall girl's dormitory by 12/31/20."*

#### **Grand Jury Recommendation #2:**

*"R2: The Yuba County Office of Education develop and implement a structured and comprehensive life skills program that should include money management, food and nutrition knowledge, hygiene care and pregnancy awareness and management by 06/31/21."*



**Grand Jury Recommendation #3:**

*“R3: The Yuba County Office of Education have in place more training and exposure to the technical/vocational career opportunities available to the youths (i.e.: culinary, plumbing, electrical, military, etc.), obtain brochures and other written material describing these careers and their requirements, and assist youth in obtaining further information if they want to pursue a specific goal, by 09/01/21.”*

**Response from the Board of Supervisors:**

R1: The County of Yuba operates the Juvenile Hall on behalf of Yuba, Sutter and Colusa counties. The Yuba County Board of Supervisors would consider the carpet replacement, while the Sutter County Board of Supervisors would only consider this item if it requires a budget amendment for Sutter County's contribution to the project. According to the Yuba County response to the Sutter County Grand Jury (attached), a solution will be implemented by the end of 2020.

R2: The Board of Supervisors understands this finding has been rescinded.

R3: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Board of Supervisors has been informed the Yuba County Office of Education is hiring new staff and pursuing a robust college and career readiness program to connect incarcerated youth to opportunities to prepare for college or acquire technical job skills in a variety of areas. The Board of Supervisors encourages the Office of Education to move forward as soon as possible.



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BRANDON BARNES  
SHERIFF – CORONER

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June 30, 2020

Superior Court of California, County of Sutter  
Attn: The Honorable Susan Green- Presiding Judge  
1175 Civic Center Blvd.  
Yuba City, CA. 95993

Please accept this response on behalf of the Sutter County Sheriff's Office regarding the findings of the Grand Jury for FY 19/20. It has been my honor to get to know the Grand Jury members and to provide an overview of the operations of the Sheriff's Office. I want to express my appreciation of the Grand Jury and the role they play in helping to bring deficiencies to our attention. I have reviewed the proposed report and offer the following responses to both the "Findings" and the "Recommendations" suggested by the Grand Jury.

**SUTTER COUNTY JAIL**

**FINDINGS:**

**F1** There is a staffing issue within the Sutter County Sheriff's Jail Facility.

**F1 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding. The jail opened approx. 11,000 square feet of additional space that must meet with the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) standards, which has placed more responsibility on existing staff.

**F2** The Sutter County Grand Jury found that there are drugs and other contraband present within the jail.

**F2 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding.

**F3** Lack of overhead netting in the medium security exercise yards.

**F3 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees there is no netting over the exercise yards at the medium security facility.

**F4** The current search method for contraband has proven to be inadequate.

**F4 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees with the finding and have already taken steps to improve in this area.





SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BRANDON BARNES  
SHERIFF – CORONER

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F5 The laundry room has no surveillance cameras present.

**F5 Response:** The Sheriff's Office agrees and has already taken steps to improve in this area.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

R1 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should expand jail employment to provide more manpower within the jail by December 1, 2021.

**R1 Response:** The Sheriff's Office sought information for a comprehensive staffing analysis for the entire office. Regretfully, the cost was prohibitive so the Sheriff is exploring other options that may be more affordable. With the opening of the AB900 jail expansion project, there has been approx. 11,000 additional square feet of space that needs to be maintained. This includes inmate housing, a new jail medical, and kitchen renovations. The Sheriff's Office recognized additional resources would be needed but further analysis is needed to determine appropriate staffing levels. The Sheriff's Office did add one position to the jail medical area during FY19/20 and added a secretary to the jail to assist with organization and tracking. The Sheriff's Office is committed to finding reasonable solutions for improving staffing and is working with the County Administrator for possible solutions.

R2 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should invest in a full body scanner placed within the Sutter County Main jail by January 1, 2022.

**R2 Response:** The Sutter County Sheriff's Office is committed to ensuring best practices for safety and security of the jail. To that end, we previously identified the benefits of a full body scanner and researched various options. The Sheriff requested a body scanner as part of the FY 20/21 budget package, which has been approved. The purchase of the scanner is being paid out of special revenue funding, so there will be no general fund impact for the purchase. It is the hope of the Sheriff's Office to purchase the scanner as soon as September of 2020.

R3 The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should purchase and install overhead netting over the open aired spaces/areas near the Medium Security facility and/or create a fenced off area preventing civilians from having access to this area by December 2021.

**R3 Response:** The Sheriff's Office appreciates the feedback from the Grand Jury, and this is a valid recommendation. The Sheriff has directed the Jail Commander to research possible options and submit recommendations. If this project is fiscally feasible, it will be included in the budget proposal for FY20/21, in hopes it would be completed by December of 2021.



SUTTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE  
BRANDON BARNES  
SHERIFF – CORONER

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**R4** The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should place surveillance cameras in the laundry room by January 1, 2021.

**R4 Response:** The Sheriff's Office previously recognized this as a deficiency in the laundry facility. Adding cameras to the laundry room was budgeted and this project has been completed. The laundry room and medium security courtyard cameras went active on June 2, 2020. The cameras in the laundry room and the laundry courtyard all possess zoom capabilities. The inside views cover the entire main laundry room, where linens are washed and folded.

The Sheriff's Office is grateful for the recommendations of the Grand Jury. We feel we have an exemplary staff, but regretfully have financial limitations like most agencies our size. We will work to improve in the areas noted and continue to build upon our successes. If the Grand Jury would like to discuss any of these issues in greater detail, please feel free to contact the Office of the Sheriff.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brandon Barnes", written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Barnes  
Sheriff-Coroner





STEPHANIE M. HANSEL  
COURT EXECUTIVE OFFICER

## SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF SUTTER

1175 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City, CA 95993

(530) 822-3302 FAX: (530) 822-3502

June 17, 2020

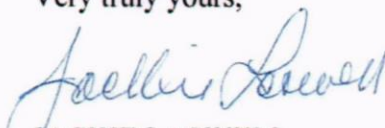
Dear Department Head:

Enclosed is a copy of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report section(s) that pertains to your department. Pursuant to Penal Code §933.05(f) the section(s) are provided to you on behalf of the Grand Jury.

Provide your response to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court within the time period specified in Penal Code §933(c) and include the details required by Penal Code §933.05. Please provide an original and one copy. Your response will be filed with the Court and a copy will be posted on the Court's website, [www.suttercourts.com](http://www.suttercourts.com).

Please acknowledge the receipt of these documents by signing below on the copy. Please retain the copy for your records.

Very truly yours,

  
JACKIE LASWELL  
Court Clerk/Jury Services

JL  
Enc.  
c:file

Receipt Date: 6/30/20

Department: SITTELEPP'S OFFICE

Signed:   
Respondent

Brandon Brues  
Please Print Name



CALIFORNIA CODES  
PENAL CODE  
SECTION 925-933.6

**933.** (c) No later than 90 days after the grand jury submits a final report on the operations of any public agency subject to its reviewing authority, the governing body of the public agency shall comment to the presiding judge of the superior court on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of the governing body, and every elected county officer or agency head for which the grand jury has responsibility pursuant to Section 914.1 shall comment within 60 days to the presiding judge of the superior court, with an information copy sent to the board of supervisors, on the findings and recommendations pertaining to matters under the control of that county officer or agency head and any agency or agencies which that officer or agency head supervises or controls. In any city and county, the mayor shall also comment on the findings and recommendations. All of these comments and reports shall forthwith be submitted to the presiding judge of the superior court who impaneled the grand jury. A copy of all responses to grand jury reports shall be placed on file with the clerk of the public agency and the office of the county clerk, or the mayor when applicable, and shall remain on file in those offices. One copy shall be placed on file with the applicable grand jury final report by, and in the control of the currently impaneled grand jury, where it shall be maintained for a minimum of five years.

**933.05.** (a) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury finding, the responding person or entity shall indicate one of the following:

- (1) The respondent agrees with the finding.
- (2) The respondent disagrees wholly or partially with the finding, in which case the response shall specify the portion of the finding that is disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons therefore.

(b) For purposes of subdivision (b) of Section 933, as to each grand jury recommendation, the responding person or entity shall report one of the following actions:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented in the future, with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis, with an explanation and the scope and parameters of an analysis or study, and a timeframe for the matter to be prepared for discussion by the officer or head of the agency or department being investigated or reviewed, including the governing body of the public agency when applicable. This timeframe shall not exceed six months from the date of publication of the grand jury report.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation therefore.

(c) However, if a finding or recommendation of the grand jury addresses budgetary or personnel matters of a county agency or department headed by an elected officer, both the agency or department head and the board of supervisors shall respond if requested by the grand jury, but the response of the board of supervisors shall address only those budgetary or personnel matters over which it has some decision-making authority. The response of the elected agency or department head shall address all aspects of the findings or recommendations affecting his or her agency or department.

(d) A grand jury may request a subject person or entity to come before the grand jury for the purpose of reading and discussing the findings of the grand jury report that relates to that person or entity in order to verify the accuracy of the findings prior to their release.

(e) During an investigation, the grand jury shall meet with the subject of that investigation regarding the investigation, unless the court, either on its own determination or upon request of the foreperson of the grand jury, determines that such a meeting would be detrimental.

(f) A grand jury shall provide to the affected agency a copy of the portion of the grand jury report relating to that person or entity two working days prior to its public release and after the approval of the presiding judge. **No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose any contents of the report prior to the public release of the final report.**



# SUTTER COUNTY JAIL

## SUMMARY

Pursuant to Cal. Penal Code §919 (b) the Sutter County Grand Jury (SCGJ) shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county, which allows the SCGJ the ability to investigate how effectively the Sutter County Sheriff's Department administers the Sutter County Jail.

The 2019-2020 SCGJ inspected and toured the Sutter County Jail facility. Interviews were conducted with county contracted employees of the Sutter County Sheriff's Department, as well as multiple inmates housed within the Sutter County Jail facility. The SCGJ found various areas of concern regarding contraband being introduced into the Sutter County Jail facility, lack of surveillance cameras in a pertinent area within the medium security jail facility, and lastly an understaffing issue.

## BACKGROUND

The Sutter County Main Jail facility is located at 1077 Civic Center Boulevard, Yuba City, California. The Sutter County Sheriff's Department serves the County population of approximately 96,438. The Sutter County Jail was recently approved for a State Building Grant, which paid for 90% of the newly completed construction project for the expansion of the Sutter County Jail. This new expansion has provided 42 additional beds for the inmates, specifically 28 male beds and 14 female beds. The SCGJ was impressed by the state-of-the-art expansion which included new pod configuration, classroom capabilities, and an open-aired exercise yard.

The Sutter County Sheriff's Department had a new Sheriff elected in 2019, who has been proactively working with the Sutter County community showing transparency and a desire to see the community flourish successfully. The Sutter County Sheriff's Department is very engaged on social media pages to connect with the public, and participates in various community outreach events like 'Coffee with the Community', 'Slice with the Sheriff', 'Soft Serve with the Sutter County Sheriff' and many more. The Sheriff has also been receptive towards changes that need to be made from within the jail.

## METHODOLOGY

### Tours:

- Sutter County Main Jail Facility
- Sutter County Medium Security Jail Facility
- Sutter County Sheriff's Department Office
- South Placer County Jail

### Interviews:

- Employees of the Sutter County Sheriff's Department
- City of Yuba City staff
- South Placer County Jail staff
- City of Yuba City Fire personnel

### Research:

- Sutter County Sheriff's Office Jail Operations Manual
- Sutter County Jail Inmate Handbook
- South Placer County Jail documentation
- Sutter County Sheriff's Department Confidential correspondence
- Webpages:

[www.suttersheriff.org/](http://www.suttersheriff.org/)

<https://www.placer.ca.gov/>

<https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/>

<https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/>

<https://www.appeal-democrat.com/>

<https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/>

<https://www.google.com/maps>

<https://www.globalindustrial.com/>

### DISCUSSION

The SCGJ conducted multiple interviews with various Sutter County Sheriff personnel. During a final walkthrough of the Sutter County Jail, the SCGJ observed that the new expansion was not being used, which, according to staff interviews, was due to lack of staffing. The Sutter County Jail competes with other higher paying departments, which makes it difficult to interest applicants, but are striving to recruit new members to their department to resolve the personnel understaffing.

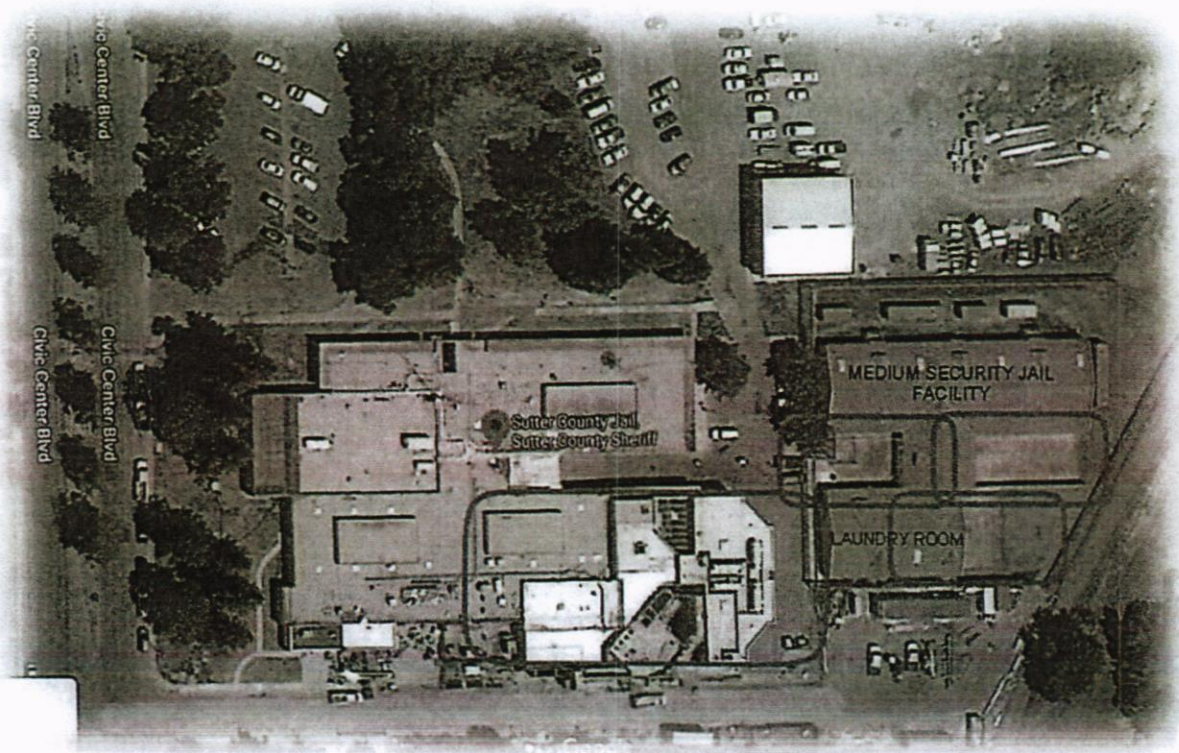
The SCGJ became aware that contraband is being smuggled into the jail and spoke with various Sutter County personnel about possible solutions. Contraband comes in many forms, including but not limited to, tobacco, cigarette lighters, items that can be weaponized, controlled substances, cellular devices, and much more. It was noted that most of the contraband was being brought in by the arrestees and occasionally by the public who have found opportunities around the unsecured exterior of the jail.



The 2018/2019 SCGJ recommended that the medium securities facility needs to be blocked off to prevent unauthorized public access, and to help prevent contraband from being introduced into the jail from outside sources. According to personnel, building a new security perimeter around the Sutter County Sheriff's Department facility is currently being budgeted. There are also two fenced in exercise yards located behind the facility with no netting or prevention in place to catch any contraband from being thrown over.

**Provided below is an aerial satellite photograph of the Sutter County Sheriff's Department specifically highlighting the open-aired exercise yards circled in red.**

**The newly completed jail expansion is also circled in red for reference purposes.**



Inmates have access to these open-aired spaces while working in the laundry room or exercising in the fenced in yards. The SCGJ discussed the idea of overhead, fire marshal approved, netting being placed over the open-aired areas of the medium security facility. This could limit or prevent contraband from being thrown over these fences for inmates to obtain.

**Provided on the next page is a screenshot that was given to the SCGJ from Sutter County Sheriff's Department personnel of a possible preventative measure that can be put in place.**



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Home > Safety & Security > Crowd Control > Security Fence & Nets > Debris Safety Netting

**BOEN SN-20016 Fire Resistant Safety Netting, 8.6 Ft. x 150 Ft., Black, 1 Roll**

Item #: V08B1501702

Price: \$160.95

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**BOEN SN-20016 Fire Resistant Safety Netting, 8.6 Ft. x 150 Ft., Black, 1 Roll**

Improve the safety of on-the-street pedestrians and construction workers, and adjacent properties with Debris Defense Netting. Debris Defense Netting is your ultimate source protection from debris that falls from the working deck. Our heavy duty, fire resistant, OSHA Compliant debris netting can wrap a building into a cocoon of safety. The most advanced reinforced buttonhole design assures easy installation and optimum performance.

**Features:**

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- UV inhibited and resistant to temperature changes
- Fire retardant
- Hole openings approx. 1/4 in
- Meets OSHA specifications & NY Local Law 61
- Knitted polyethylene threads with reinforced border
- Vision barrier
- Wind protection
- Demolition Protection
- 150ft Roll

**SPECIFICATIONS**

**Product Specifications**

WIDTH INCHES	1500
HEIGHT INCHES	103
COLOR FINISH	Black
BRAND	Boen
DESCRIPTION	Fire Resistant Safety Netting
CONSTRUCTION	HOPE
MANUFACTURERS PART NUMBER	SN-20016
APPROVALS OR CERTIFICATIONS	OSHA Compliant
PACKAGE QUANTITY	1
FIRE RETARDANT	Yes

1

When arrestees arrive at the jail the deputies use pat down and exchange of clothing searches. However, they cannot conduct a strip search or body cavity search without legal justification. Per California Penal Code 4030(e) and (f)<sup>2</sup>, many arrestees being brought in by deputies on small crime charges or DUI (driving under the influence) may not be strip searched without further reasonable suspicion that an individual is concealing weapons or contraband. The SCGJ found that the current search technique used on the arrestees is insufficient in preventing individuals intentionally being arrested for crimes that are not subject to body searches, which allows them to smuggle in contraband.

Other county jails, such as the South Placer County Jail, have been using full body scanners to help prevent contraband from entering the facilities. The SCGJ visited that jail solely to inspect their scanner, a "Tek84" which is used to detect metallic, nonmetallic, organic, and inorganic contraband. It can do so in a less intrusive manner, and takes as little as 4 seconds, while a strip search can take 15 minutes or more. The South Placer County Jail personnel stated that it has been extremely helpful in discovering contraband hidden internally and

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.globalindustrial.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.search-california-law.com/research/ca/PEN/4030./Cal-Penal-Code-Section-4030/text.html>

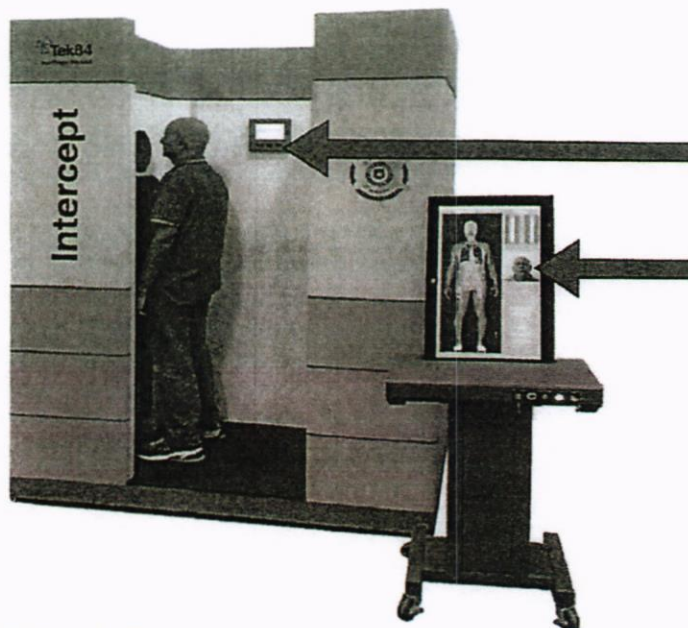
externally which could be missed during other searches, significantly dropping the numbers of contraband being introduced into the jail.

After our informative visit, the SCGJ mentioned the capabilities of the scanner to the Sutter County Sheriff's Department, and it was noted that a body scanner was currently being budgeted for their department.

Provided below is a brochure picture of the 'Tek84' scanner used at the South Placer County Jail



**Body scanner for High-Security Screening— Prisons, Jails, Customs**



Intercept's built-in camera ensures a positive match between the person and their scanned image.

### **Breakthrough Technology**

Prisons and jails are rapidly adopting body scanners to detect weapons and contraband hidden in body cavities and elsewhere on inmates and visitors. Unlike the units used in airports, these scanners use a low-level of x-rays transmitted through the body, similar to medical exams. More than 500 such body scanners are now installed in U.S. correctional facilities, manufactured by companies in Belarus, EU, Brazil and China.

*Intercept™ is a true breakthrough in this technology, scanning the person vertically instead of horizontally. Vertical scanning provides revolutionary benefits:*

- The person remains stationary, not standing on a moving conveyor belt or platform;
- A quick 4-second scan, not 7-15 seconds
- Narrow width, removable top, built in wheels; easily clears doorways 34" wide by 80" high
- Quick setup: a few hours, not a few days
- No image distortion, objects appear in the image at the same location as on the body
- No waiting for a daily warm-up period; ready to scan at a moment's notice

### **Head-to-toe screening including body cavities**

- Subject doesn't move
- 4-second scanning
- Ultra-small footprint
- 2-hour installation
- Best image quality
- On-screen photo

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**Tek84 is owned and operated in the USA. Our design staff has been at the forefront of body scanner innovation for 30 years.**

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The Sutter County Sheriff's Department has installed a new high-tech video surveillance system to monitor the facility and the inmates housed within, to increase safety for inmates and personnel. However, there is a surveillance issue in the Sutter County Jail, specifically in the laundry room located within the Medium Security facility. The laundry room is adjacent to the medium security jail facility surrounded by chain link fencing. This fenced area is entirely accessible to the public and is an area of concern.

Inmates considered as "trustees" that have displayed good behavior are allowed in the laundry room to perform work duties. The SCGJ observed that there are zero surveillance cameras present in the laundry room, and very little supervision from Sutter County correctional officers during the time the inmates are in laundry room.

The SCGJ recognizes that managing a jail facility is a huge responsibility to maintain a safe and secure environment, not only for the staff, but also for the inmates. Our investigation revealed that the Sutter County Sheriff's Department is doing an admirable job at running and maintaining the jail, however there were some areas of concern that do need to be addressed.

## **FINDINGS**

- F1: There is a staffing issue within the Sutter County Sheriff's Jail facility.
- F2: The Sutter County Grand Jury found that there are drugs and other contraband present within the jail.
- F3: Lack of overhead netting in the medium security exercise yards.
- F4: The current search method for contraband has proven to be inadequate.
- F5: The laundry room has no surveillance cameras present.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should expand jail employment to provide more manpower within the jail by December 1, 2021.
- R2: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should invest in a full body scanner placed within the Sutter County Main jail by January 1, 2022.
- R3: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should purchase and install overhead netting over the open-aided spaces/areas near the Medium Security facility and/or create a fenced off area preventing civilians from having access to this area by December 1, 2021.

R4: The Sutter County Sheriff's Department should place surveillance cameras in the laundry room by January 1, 2021.

#### **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the grand jury requests responses as follows:

The following elected county official within 60 days:

- Sutter County Sheriff: F1 - F4 and R1 - R4

The following response is required within 90 days:

- Sutter County Board of Supervisors: F1 - F4 and R1 - R4

#### **DISCLAIMER**

*Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. California Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury will not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.*

# *The County of Yuba*

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## OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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915 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Ste. 109  
Marysville, California 95901  
(530) 749-7510  
(530) 749-7353 FAX

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July 28, 2020

The Honorable Susan E. Green  
Presiding Judge  
Superior Court of the State of California  
County of Sutter  
1175 Civic Center Blvd.  
Yuba City, CA 95993

Re: **RESPONSE TO 2019-20 GRAND JURY – “Tri-County Juvenile Hall Rehabilitation Facility and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center”**

Dear Judge Green,

Provided pursuant to Penal Code Section 933(c) are the comments from the Yuba County Board of Supervisors related to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2019-20 Sutter County Grand Jury Final Report – “Tri-County Juvenile Hall Rehabilitation Facility and the Maxine Singer Youth Guidance Center.” Consistent with Section 933(c), responses do not address departments under control of elected officials or outside agencies, except where a specific response was solicited and then our response is consistent with provisions of Penal Code Section 933.05(c).

### **FINDINGS**

***F1. The carpet in the girl’s dormitory of Juvenile Hall is old, torn and is presently a health and safety issue.***

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

***F2. There lacks structured and comprehensive “Life Skills” program.***

Per the Juvenile Hall Superintendent, this Finding has been rescinded by the Grand Jury.

***F3. Exposure to technical/vocational career training and opportunities is limited.***

The Board of Supervisors agrees with this finding.

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### **SUPERVISORS**

Andy Vasquez – District 1 • Mike Leahy – District 2 • Doug Lofton – District 3 • Gary Bradford – District 4 • Randy Fletcher – District 5



## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- R1.    *The Board of Supervisors give approval to replace the carpet or repair and sanitize the current carpet in the Juvenile Hall girl's dormitory by 12/31/20.***

The recommendation has been implemented. Through the response contained herein and discussion with the Juvenile Hall Superintendent, the Board of Supervisors direction has been provided and feels a solution will be implemented by the end of the calendar year.

- R2.    *The Yuba County Office of Education develop and implement a structured and comprehensive life skills program that should include money management, food and nutrition knowledge, hygiene care and pregnancy awareness and management by 6/31/21.***

Per the Juvenile Hall Superintendent, this Finding has been rescinded by the Grand Jury.

- R3.    *The Yuba County Office of Education have in place more training and exposure to the technical/vocational career opportunities available to the youths (i.e: culinary, plumbing, electrical, military, etc.), obtain brochures and other written material describing these careers and their requirements, and assist youth in obtaining further information if they want to pursue a specific goal, by 9/01/21.***

The recommendation requires further analysis. As indicated in the response from the department overseeing Juvenile Hall, The Office of Education has the ability and will be implementing certain training and exposure to more opportunities. Through this response, the Board of Supervisors encourages the Office of Education to move forward as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Doug Lofton, Chairman  
Yuba County Board of Supervisors

cc: Yuba County Office of Education  
Matt Ricardy, Juvenile Hall Superintendent  
Jim Arnold, Chief Probation Officer

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