DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER
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August 10, 2009

The Honorable Ramona Garrett
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield, CA 94533

Re: 2008-2009 Delta Conservation Camp Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Garrett:

The California Correctional Center (CCC) is in receipt of the 2008-2009 Solano County Grand Jury Report entitled: CDC – Delta Fire Camp, dated June 9, 2009. Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, responses to the *Findings and Recommendations* for Delta Conservation Camp are presented below for your review.

I would like to thank the Grand Jury of Solano County for their continued support of Delta Conservation Camp. Staff members at Delta Camp look forward to the Grand Jury's visit and their feedback each year.

Also, I would like to address inaccuracies within the Grand Jury's report by providing the following information. This information is intended to facilitate a better understanding of our camp and to clarify its operational policies:

- The correct name of the facility is Delta Conservation Camp (CC#08).
- The camp was established in 1988 and is one of 46 camps in California.
- The camp is jointly operated with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).
- Delta Camp has six fire crews, consisting of up to 17 inmates per crew.
- The maximum capacity of the camp is 132 inmates.
- The inmates who participate in the camp program do not have more than seven and one-half years remaining on their sentence, nor can the inmates have crimes consisting of capital offenses, sex crimes, arson or escapes within the past 10 years.
- Inmates incarcerated for domestic violence are potentially eligible for camp once their case factors have been reviewed by the Unit Classification Committee.

The Grand Jury report referenced five areas of concern within the operation of Delta Camp and surrounding area. The CDCR has control of three areas of concern. The fourth area of concern is controlled by Solano County and the fifth area of concern is controlled by CAL FIRE. CCC will provide responses to the first four findings and recommendations.

FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND RESPONSES:

Finding 1 *– The shortage of correctional officers at Delta Camp is an issue that can affect officer and inmate safety.*

Recommendation 1 *– To enhance officer and inmate safety, Delta Camp should have the two open correctional officers position filled as soon as possible.*

Response 1 – The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

During the Grand Jury's tour, Delta Camp had two officers on extended sick leave. There were two officers from the California Correctional Center (CCC) assigned to Delta Camp for the duration of the officers' absence. Once the officers were medically cleared to return to their assignment at Delta Camp, the two temporary officers returned to CCC.

Finding 2 *– The absence of security cameras around the perimeter of Delta Camp poses a serious issue.*

Recommendation 2 *– Security cameras should be installed on the perimeters and inside the camp to discourage the introduction of contraband.*

Response 2 – The recommendation has not yet been implemented; discussions have taken place to install security cameras throughout the Camp system. There are currently only two camps in the Northern Camp Division that have security Cameras in place.

Given the current state fiscal emergency, funds are not available for security cameras. Once funds become available, consideration will be given to the purchase of additional security cameras.

Finding 3 *– The current absence of grooming standards for inmates pose a safety hazard to inmates and staff while fighting fires.*

Recommendation 3 *– CDCR and CAL FIRE should lobby the Legislature to apply a separate set of regulations governing grooming standards for inmates employed at fire camps.*

Response 3 – There is a regulation in place in the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 15 Section 3062 (i) (attached), which allows CDCR staff to ensure grooming standards are kept in a safe compliance for fire fighting.

Inmate grooming standards were abolished in 2006. However, the State of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 15, Section 3062 (i) states, "An inmate who is assigned to work in food preparation, processing or serving areas, and/or around machinery, or in high fire hazard areas, may be required, for safety and sanitation reasons, to further limit his/her grooming in order to properly wear such health and safety equipment as deemed necessary by staff, including but not limited to, hair nets, safety head coverings, etc.".

Delta Camp enforces this section of the CCR to ensure the head coverings fit the inmate the way the manufacturer suggests. Inmates who fail to comply with the directive shall be subject to disciplinary action and removal from the camp. There has not been a recent attempt to lobby the legislature for a separate set of regulations governing the inmate grooming standards for inmates assigned to conservation camps.

Finding 4 *– The design of the intersection of Highway 12 and Lambie Road poses a serious safety problem.*

Recommendation 4 *– The intersection should include a turn lane onto Lambie Road from Eastbound Highway 12 along with a lane to accelerate onto and merge into West bound Highway 12.*

Response 4 – The recommendation has been implemented, with a summary regarding the implemented action.

There is construction currently underway on Highway 12, which will correct the serious safety problem. The expected completion date of the project is unknown at this time.

Delta Conservation Camp is committed to being an integral part of Solano County. We look forward to the upcoming Grand Jury Tour on August 18, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (530) 257-2181, extension 4104.

Sincerely,

R. E. BARNES
Warden
California Correctional Center

Attachment