

**California State Prison Solano
Facility Inspection
2006-2007 Solano County Grand Jury**

REASON FOR INVESTIGATION

Penal Code §919, subdivision (b) provides: “The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.” Pursuant to the statute, the 2006-2007 Grand Jury inspected the California State Prison-Solano (CSP-Solano) located at 2100 Peabody Road, Vacaville, California.

GRAND JURY ACTIONS

- Toured the facility
- Toured the Metal Fabrication Unit of the Prison Industry Authority (PIA)
- Toured the Optical Laboratory of the PIA
- Interviewed CSP-Solano warden and staff
- Reviewed newspaper articles related to California Prisons
- Reviewed materials provided by CSP-Solano
- Reviewed California Corrections Standards Authority

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY

CSP-Solano covers 146 acres. The prison opened in August 1984, with a designed capacity of 2,610 inmates. On the day of the Grand Jury inspection, CSP-Solano’s inmate population was 6,021. The gymnasiums and other buildings have been converted to housing units to accommodate the demand for institutional housing. This additional housing requires the use of triple-deck bunking.

CSP-Solano is a level-two and level-three facility. Level-two and level-three inmates must be kept separate. An inmate’s level is based on an individual assessment of his crime and actions during incarceration. Level three inmates are a higher risk level and require more security. According to prison administrative staff, CSP-Solano has a staff of approximately 1,400. The staff includes uniformed correctional officers, support staff, and medical personnel. Currently, there is a 12 percent (12%) vacancy in uniformed positions, resulting in overtime. The facility operates on an annual budget of \$150 million. Inmate cost per year is estimated to be \$26,000.

CSP-Solano’s mission is to incarcerate, control, and care for male felons while providing an opportunity for meaningful work, training, and education. The PIA is used to fulfill a part of the mission for the inmates. The PIA employs inmates and trains them to enhance their ability to obtain employment when they are released from prison.

Two of the programs offered under PIA at CSP-Solano are metal fabrication and optical manufacturing. The Metal Fabrication Unit is contained in a large updated fully functioning facility. It manufactures special vehicle equipment for Caltrans, prison metal furniture, and lockers for use throughout the California prison system. The program currently employs over 150 inmates. The recidivism rate for inmates trained in this unit is minimal; only one inmate has been re-incarcerated after receiving training.

The Optical Laboratory manufactures prescription and safety eyewear for prison inmates, Youth Authority wards, Medicare, and Medi-Cal patients, state hospitals and eligible state and local government employees. The laboratory employs approximately 100 inmates.

There is a long waiting list of inmates to fill these jobs. CSP-Solano is planning to expand the PIA and add an additional 150 inmates to the program.

CSP-Solano was licensed in June 2006 by the California Department of Health Services as a Corrections Treatment Center. The Center is able to house six chronically ill and nine mentally ill inmates for a maximum of 10 days. Those requiring longer treatment are sent to area hospitals or other facilities.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation has outreach programs with local communities. CSP-Solano is involved in the development of these programs. Two examples are:

The Prison Outreach Program, which cooperates with local schools and police departments to inform and show youths the consequences of unlawful behavior.

The Victims Offender Reconciliation Program, which brings victims of violent crimes to prisons. The victims address inmates convicted of violent crimes and convey the facts that victims are real people and have suffered from the inmates' actions.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 - California State Prison-Solano is an overcrowded facility.

Recommendation 1- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should continue its efforts to reduce overcrowding.

Finding 2 - Prison Industry Authority program at California State Prison-Solano has an apparent benefit to the inmates while incarcerated and after their release.

Recommendation 2 - California State Prison-Solano should continue to develop and expand the Prison Industry Authority program.

Finding 3 - California State Prison-Solano is developing outreach programs with local communities.

Recommendation 3 - California State Prison-Solano should continue to develop and expand the outreach programs to all communities in the county.

COMMENTS

The staff at California State Prison-Solano is working diligently to develop programs and is dedicated to its mission. The Grand Jury commends the warden and staff for their leadership and management in the operation of California State Prison-Solano.

AFFECTED AGENCIES

- California State Prison-Solano
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation