

**DIVISION OF ADULT INSTITUTIONS
CALIFORNIA CORRECTIONAL CENTER**

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March 2, 2010

Honorable D. Scott Daniels
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Solano Superior Court
600 Union Ave
Fairfield CA 94533

RE: 2009-2010 Delta Conservation Camp Grand Jury Report

Dear Honorable Judge Daniels:

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 933.05, I am providing a response to the Solano County Grand Jury of the Findings and Recommendations for Delta Conservation Camp. These responses are regarding the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report Entitled: California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) – Delta Conservation Camp – 2009/2010 Solano Grand Jury Report, Report Date: February 5, 2010.

I would like to begin by thanking the Grand Jury of Solano County for their continued support of Delta Conservation Camp. The staff at the camp look forward to the Grand Jury's visit each year. There are, however, several inaccurate statements contained within the Grand Jury report that I would like to clarify.

Delta Conservation Camp opened in June 1988 and is one (1) of 39 California camps, jointly run by CDCR and CAL FIRE. There are 18 such camps in Northern California. Delta Conservation Camp employs six (6) inmate fire crews, consisting of up to 17 male inmates per crew. The maximum occupancy of the camp is 132 inmates. Inmates participating in the camp program, have seven (7) and one-half years, or less, remaining on their sentences. These inmates cannot have crimes consisting of any capital offenses, sex crimes or arson. In addition, no prior 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 figures and dollar amounts specified in the Grand Jury Report demonstrate a substantial savings to California taxpayers, but are attributable to the statewide conservation camp program. Delta Conservation Camp has been a vital participant in achieving these savings.

Inmates assigned to conservation camps receive the benefit of pursuing GED and college education. These pursuits are facilitated through California Correctional Center and the Lassen County Board of Education, via correspondence course work and not "on line" as indicated in the Grand Jury Report. Inmates never utilize computers with modems or internet capability.

The six (6) trucks, utilized by CAL FIRE Captains to transport the inmate crews, are formally referred to as Emergency Crew Transport(s) or ECT.

The Grand Jury Report has referenced four (4) areas of concern within the operation of Delta Conservation Camp and surrounding area. CDCR has control of two (2) of the listed areas of concern. A third area of concern addressed a Highway 12 road project at the intersection of Highway 12 and Lambie Road. That project is currently a work in progress. A fourth area of concern was simply a recommendation for local cities and Solano County departments to pursue utilization of Delta Conservation Camp's crews for public works projects. The responses to CDCR's affected areas of concern are as follows:

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Finding 1 – The lack of security cameras around the perimeter of Delta Conservation Camp poses a serious security issue.

Recommendation 1 – Security cameras should be installed on the perimeter for overall security and safety and to discourage the introduction of contraband.

Response 1 – Given the current state fiscal emergency, funds cannot be allocated for the security cameras. Once the fiscal emergency is over and funds become available, consideration will be given to purchase security cameras for the camp.

Finding ³2 – One correctional officer on the graveyard shift with no backup is cause for considerable concern and presents a severe security problem. The officer's safety and welfare could be in serious jeopardy, as there is a minimum 20 minute response time from California State Prison Solano (CSP-S) staff to provide help in an emergency.

Recommendation ³2 – The CDCR staff should make every effort to hire a second correctional officer for graveyard shift at Delta Conservation Camp. Contact should also be made with the Solano County Sheriff's Office to ensure a procedure is negotiated to expedite prompt help for camp personnel during the graveyard shift as needed.

Finding ³2 – CDCR, and specifically Delta Conservation Camp, employs several operational protocols, including, but not limited to, escape pursuits, emergency preparedness, and disturbance control. These protocols are formatted into specific procedural manuals or Operational Guidelines. Each manual or guideline outlines a specific course of action to be taken, relative to every level of circumstance. Existing procedures governing external assistance from local institutions, emergency response from local law enforcement, and requests for mutual aid are in place. CDCR has established that all safety and security concerns at the camp can be efficiently addressed with current staffing levels.

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In closing, Delta Conservation Camp is committed to being an integral part of Solano County. We look forward to future visits from the Solano County Grand Jury.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. E. Barnes', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

R. E. BARNES
Warden