



**SOLANO COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**  
**Thomas A. Ferrara, Sheriff-Coroner**

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530 Union Avenue, Ste. 100, Fairfield, CA 94533  
(707) 784-7000

July 17, 2015

Honorable E. Bradley Nelson  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
County of Solano  
600 Union Avenue  
Fairfield, CA 94533

**Re: Sheriff's Response to 2014-2015 Solano County Grand Jury Report – Stanton Adult Detention Facility; State of the Art in Modern Detention**

Judge Nelson:

Under Penal Code Sections 933 and 933.05, I am responding to the following findings and recommendations contained in the 2014-2015 Grand Jury Report that pertain to matters under my control as the Solano County Sheriff-Coroner:

**Finding 1** – *Solano County has created a detention facility that serves as a model for the entire state corrections system.*

**Response to Finding 1** – I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

**Recommendation 1** – *Continue to direct funds to improve facilities, and maintain efficiency at the “state of the art” Stanton Adult Detention Facility.*

**Response to Recommendation 1** – The recommendation has been implemented and the Sheriff's Office will continue to be innovative in its approach to maintaining efficient, safe and secure correctional facilities.

**Finding 2** – *Heavy rains caused delays in opening the facility as there were leaks.*

**Response to Finding 2** – I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury; water leakage was one of the causes of the delayed opening of the facility.

*Dedicated to Community Service*

**Recommendation 2** – *Ensure the repairs are completed promptly and satisfactorily before housing inmates.*

**Response to Recommendation 2** – The recommendation has been implemented and the repairs have been completed. Our office began moving inmates into the facility on May 3, 2015. We will continue to work with Solano County General Services to facilitate the fortification of the facility against future water leaks.

**Finding 3** - *Construction and other issues have delayed the opening of the facility. The facility is to begin housing inmates on June 24, 2015.*

**Response to Finding 3** – I agree with the finding of the Grand Jury.

**Recommendation 3** - *Complete the construction and facility testing and open the facility on or before June 24, 2015.*

**Response to Recommendation 3** – The recommendation has been implemented and the facility opened May 3, 2015.

**Finding 4** - *The Stanton Adult Detention Facility has taken 11 years to complete, at a cost of \$89.3 million dollars. The facility was dedicated on June 5, 2014, and has yet to house inmates.*

**Response to Finding 4** – I disagree partially with the findings of the Grand Jury. The \$89.3 million Stanton Correctional Facility construction project started in November 2009 when Solano County secured State funding through Assembly Bill 900 (AB900). The project was substantially completed in June 2014, and the first inmates occupied the facility in May 2015. This equates to a total start-to-finish time frame of just over five and one half years.

**Recommendation 4** - *Populate the Stanton Facility with inmates.*

**Response to Recommendation 4** – The recommendation has been implemented.

**Finding 5** - *The Stanton Facility is purported to be the best in inmate security, officer safety and cost effectiveness.*

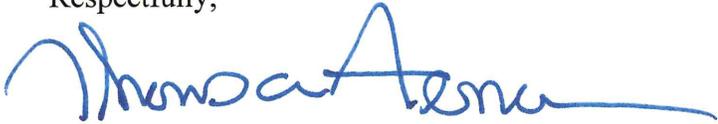
**Response to Finding 5** – I disagree partially with the finding of the Grand Jury. Solano County has a “state of the art” correctional facility; however, with less than two months of operation, whether it is “the best” is yet to be determined.

**Recommendation 5** - *Move inmates immediately from the 1970’s era Claybank Facility to the Stanton Detention Facility to realize the benefits.*

**Response to Recommendation 5** – The recommendation requires further analysis. Over the next several months, cost benefits will be realized by balancing the inmate populations by classification (security risk) among the three facilities. The Stanton Correctional Facility was designed and built to safely and securely detain Solano County’s highest risk offenders in a safe, humane environment.

I would like to thank the Solano County Grand Jury for their time invested in this matter and for their report of findings and recommendations. As always, the recommendations and comments of the Solano County Grand Jury are greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Thomas A. Ferrara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Thomas A. Ferrara  
Sheriff-Coroner

cc: Solano County Grand Jury  
County Administrator's Office