



**SOLANO COUNTY GRAND JURY**  
2013-2014

**CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON-SOLANO  
FACILITY INSPECTION**

# **CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON-SOLANO FACILITY INSPECTION**

2013-2014 Solano County Grand Jury

## **I. INTRODUCTION**

Under the authority of California Penal Code §919 subdivision (b), the 2013-2014 Solano County Grand Jury inspected the California State Prison-Solano CSP-Solano.

CSP-Solano is located at 2100 Peabody Road, Vacaville, CA. On February 13, 2014, our initial inspection/tour, the felony convicted inmate population was 4,119.

## **II. METHODOLOGY**

Interviewed:

- Staff members at CSP-Solano
- Correction Officers on duty
- Medical and Mental Health staff at CSP-Solano
- Staff and personnel of the California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA)

Reviewed:

- California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Division 3
- Information provided by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR)
- Prior Grand Jury reports on CSP-Solano
- Newspaper articles related to California prisons
- Pamphlets, forms and handouts provided by CSP-Solano
- Information and Fact Sheet concerning the 2011 Public Safety Realignment Act (AB109)
- Responses from CSP-Solano to the 2013-2014 Grand Jury's written questions
- Health Care Facility Improvement Program (HCFIP)
- California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS)

Toured:

- California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) on February 13, 2014
- Secured and Unsecured areas of CSP-Solano on March 6, 2014
  - Administrative Segregation Housing Unit (AD-SEG)
  - Food Services
  - Housing Units
  - Medical
  - Metal Fabrication Shop
  - Optical Laboratory
  - Receiving and Release (R&R)

### III. STATEMENT OF FACTS

CSP-Solano opened in 1984 as California Medical Facility-South. In 1994, the two institutions were officially separated and CSP-Solano became independent from the California Medical Facility. CSP-Solano covers 146 acres with the designed ability to house a maximum capacity of 2,610 inmates.

#### CALIFORNIA STATE PRISON - SOLANO MISSION STATEMENT

*The primary mission of California State Prison CSP-Solano is to provide custody, care and treatment, and rehabilitative programs for those inmates committed to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation by the courts. CSP-Solano is designed as a medium security institution to provide housing for general population inmates.*

CSP-Solano is a Level II and Level III facility. Inmate levels are determined by the processes detailed in Title 15, Division 3, Article 10, of the California Code of Regulations. CSP-Solano houses Level II and Level III inmates. Level III inmates are considered higher risk, requiring more security. The security level assigned to an inmate is based on an individual assessment of the inmate's criminal history, prior incarceration history, current commitment offense, and behavior during incarceration.

**Level II** general population inmates are housed in seven buildings called units. These units are open dormitory style with a bunking capacity of one to four inmates in each of the unit areas. These inmates are not in cells.

**Level III** general population inmates are housed in six buildings called units. Within the units, inmates are housed in two-person cells. The 2013-2014 Grand Jury was informed by CSP-Solano staff members that Level III inmates are "under the gun"; meaning tower guards are armed and ready to take the appropriate action in providing safety and security for everyone. There are signs printed on the courtyard walls stating, "NO WARNING SHOTS". Yard guards are armed with non-lethal weapons and are outfitted with anti-stab vests.

The current inmate population at CSP-Solano is 148% of the rated capacity of 2,610 inmates.

A panel of three Federal Judges ordered that CSP-Solano capacity be set at 3,471, or 133% of the original designed capacity.

CSP-Solano Annual Budget for the current Fiscal Year:

\$127,470,415	General
3,557,741	Dental
34,452,346	Medical
6,863,701	Medication
<u>5,517,147</u>	Mental Health
\$177,861,350	

The CSP-Solano staff advised the 2013-2014 Grand Jury that the daily average cost to keep an inmate at CSP-Solano is \$120.08 and the annual average cost is \$43,829 per inmate without prescription costs included.

CSP-Solano Staffing:

Administration	369
Custody	639
Medical	247
Support	<u>319</u>
	1,574

*The California Prison Industry Authority (CALPIA) is a self-supporting, customer focused business that provides productive work, training, and skill development opportunities for inmates in California's Correctional Institutions.*

CALPIA employs 370 inmates from CSP-Solano in four enterprises:

- Bindery
- Laundry
- Metal Fabrication
- Optical Laboratory

The 2013-2014 Grand Jury toured the Metal Fabrication Shop and the Optical Laboratory.

### **Metal Fabrication Shop**

The Metal Fabrication Shop's operation produces a variety of detention furniture, metal shelving, and lockers. They also produce large heavy equipment for the Department of Transportation that includes snowplow components, truck bodies, and hydraulic tanks.

CALPIA plans to increase metal fabrication productions to include security cages for transportation and parole agent vehicles. This will require a 10-15% increase of inmate workers in this operation.

### **Optical Laboratory**

The Optical Lab produces Medi-Cal plastic and glass eye wear for statewide distribution. This enterprise produces prescription eye wear for prison inmates, Youth Authority wards, state hospital patients, and various state agency employees. Inmates assigned to this enterprise are eligible to earn certification through the American Board of Opticianry. Plans to expand the Optical Lab will create an additional need for 15% more inmate workers.

The Optical Laboratory in CSP-Solano had two inmates who have achieved the level of Master Optician out of the 11 Master Opticians who have attained this certification throughout the State of California. There is a large applicant pool of inmates who want to work for CALPIA.

CALPIA has stated that, *The recidivism rate of CALPIA inmate workers is, on the average 25% less than the recidivism rate of California's general prison population.*

### **Medical Units**

It is the goal of the Health Care Facility Improvement Program to provide a facility infrastructure within the CDCR. This will support a timely, competent, and effective health care delivery system which includes appropriate health care diagnostics and treatment, medication distribution, and access to care for individuals incarcerated within the CDCR.

CSP-Solano provides general and specialty medical services to Level II and Level III inmates. The mission of the California Correctional Health Care Services and the CDCR is to provide constitutionally adequate medical care to patient/inmates of the CDCR within a delivery system the State of California can successfully manage to reduce unnecessary illnesses and diseases. Its secondary mission is to protect public health by providing patients/inmates timely access to safe, efficient medical care, and coordinate a timely delivery of basic medical care with regards to mental health, dental, and disability programs.

Patients/inmates requiring medical care, such as dialysis, surgery, cardiac tests and evaluations, will be screened and diagnosed by medical personnel, then referred to an out-patient hospital outside of CSP-Solano, such as NorthBay Medical Center. When necessary, CSP-Solano Medical Staff can request a trailer to be brought on grounds to provide CT, PET, and MRI scans.

CSP-Solano has four separate medical clinics within the 146 acre facility, with a variety of medical and mental health support staff of 247 persons to cover all shifts. The staff includes:

- Consultants
- Laboratory Specialists
- Nurses
- Nurse Assistants
- Nurse Practitioners
- Office and Administrative Assistants
- Occupational Therapists
- Pharmacists
- Psychological Technicians
- Physical Therapists
- Public Health Nurses
- Radiologists
- Surgical Nurses
- X-ray Technicians

## Specialty Doctors:

- Family Practitioner (1)
- Forensic Psychiatrist (1)
- General Surgeon (1)
- Internist (2)

CSP-Solano is currently building a new medical clinic to support the 35% of inmates requiring mental health services. Since CSP-Solano is separate from the California Medical Facility (CMF), the influx of mental or long term medical care is inevitable and now becomes the responsibility of CSP-Solano to provide quality health care under the 2012 HCFIP implementation.

The CDCR provides access to mental health programs, services and activities for developmentally disabled inmates/parolees; thus ensuring the department is providing constitutionally adequate medical care to help sustain their needs in or out of prison.

### **Administrative Segregation (AD-SEG)**

Administrative Segregation is a part of the disciplinary process utilized to keep inmates and staff safe. Disciplinary procedures are covered in the California Code of Regulation, Title 15, Crime Prevention and Corrections, Division 3, Article 5.

Inmates charged with serious misconduct are placed in segregated housing, one inmate per cell. Additionally, inmates who are determined to be unsafe within the general population are also included. There is little contact or no communication with other inmates. The inmate spends approximately 23 hours a day in his cell. When there is a need to move or transport an inmate, he is placed in restraints and guarded at all times. During their outside or yard time, the inmate is placed in a single person, fully-barred confinement area, separated from all other inmates.

On the day of the Grand Jury tour, 145 inmates were confined to AD-SEG. The average length of stay in this unit is 78 days.

### **Receiving and Release (R&R)**

This department is responsible for the processing of newly arrived inmates, as well as out-going transfers and inmate releases in addition to other duties.

CSP-Solano staff informed the Grand Jury they still use ink and paper to fingerprint inmates. The staff would prefer Live Scan equipment that would enable them to do their processing duties more efficiently and give them the ability to maintain accurate information. Live Scan is a digital system used to record finger and palm prints, rather than manually storing inked and paper versions of criminals' fingerprints. The Live Scan system utilizes and maintains a large digital database that can be searched quickly and efficiently. Live Scan technology for fingerprinting and a background check is used by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies throughout the United States.

The Grand Jury was informed that inmates who are released from prison do not have sufficient documentation, such as proper photo identification and/or a social security card that would be necessary to assist them in their successful reentry into society.

### **Food Services**

Food Services' objective is to provide the inmate population a healthy and nutritionally balanced diet based on Federal and State guidelines. The meals at this facility provide about 3,200 calories a day. The Food Service Department is a business service unit directly supervised by Correction Business Management, an independent state entity. Inmates receive two hot meals a day, one in the morning and one in the evening. A paper bagged lunch is given to inmates at the morning meal before starting daily activities. Inmates not on work detail will have their lunch at the indicated time specified by CSP-Solano. Inmates with dietary or food restrictions are provided meals specific to their health and religious diets.

CSP-Solano has two kitchens to prepare meals. On the day of the Grand Jury tour, one of the kitchen units was closed awaiting repair and upgrades.

## **IV. SUMMARY**

The Solano County Grand Jury conducted interviews, gathered information, and toured/inspected the California State Prison-Solano during visits conducted on February 13, 2014, and March 6, 2014. Specific areas visited included:

- Receiving and Release
- Housing Level II
- Administrative Segregation
- Medical and Dental Clinics
- California Prison Industry Authority
- Food Facilities

On the two visits, when the Grand Jury visited CSP-Solano, it appeared to be well maintained and systematically organized. The staff was enthusiastic and committed to keeping the environment healthy for themselves and the inmates.

## **V. FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Finding 1** – California State Prison-Solano continues to exceed inmate population levels established by a panel of three Federal Judges.

**Recommendation 1** – California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation take aggressive action to comply with Federal court orders.

**Finding 2** – Live Scan system is not used in the Receiving and Release Department at California State Prison-Solano.

**Recommendation 2** –Install the Live Scan system in the Receiving and Release Department.

**Finding 3** – California Prison Industry Authority is planning to expand their operation in the metal fabrication shop and optical laboratory. This will require an increase of 10-15% of inmate workers in each enterprise. There is a waiting list of eligible inmates to work for the California Prison Industry Authority.

**Recommendation 3** - Expand California Prison Industry Authority operations as needed and put more inmates to work.

## **COMMENTS**

California Prison Industry Authority is a benefit to the inmates and other California agencies. It is a proven fact this program reduces the recidivism rate. The 2013-2014 Solano County Grand Jury encourages the expansion of the California Prison Industry Authority and its programs.

As previously stated, the CSP-Solano staff was enthusiastic and committed to keeping the environment healthy for the inmates as well as themselves.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

None

## **COURTESY COPIES**

Clerk, Solano County Board of Supervisors  
Secretary, California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
Warden, California State Prison-Solano  
State Senator Lois Wolk, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, 8<sup>th</sup> District  
Mayor, City of Vacaville