

# **GRAND JURY INSPECTIONS OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN NEVADA COUNTY TRUCKEE HOLDING FACILITY**

## **REASON FOR INVESTIGATION**

California Penal Code section 919(b) requires the Grand Jury to inquire annually into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county. An essential element of these inquiries is an inspection tour of each facility.

## **PROCEDURE FOLLOWED**

The Grand Jury inspected the Nevada County Sheriff's Holding Facility located at 10879 Donner Pass Road, Truckee, on August 5, 2005 and October 17, 2005. The jury toured the facility, reviewed documents and interviewed representatives from the Sheriff's Department.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Truckee Holding Facility is a low security risk, temporary holding facility. Confinement is limited to 96 hours. It also includes the 911 Dispatch Center for all Truckee area law enforcement agencies. The holding facility is used to house persons arrested in the Truckee area and inmates who are transported daily from Wayne Brown Correctional Facility for appearance before the Truckee Courts.

## **FINDINGS**

1. The holding facility was built in the early 1960's and has an inmate capacity of 11.
2. The holding facility is staffed with six female correctional officers, one court bailiff and one transport officer.
3. The holding facility includes an outdoor inmate loading/unloading dock located in an unsecured open area in close proximity to a public library.
4. Inmates are walked, or driven, by an armed officer to and from the nearby courthouse. Inmates are handcuffed and in leg shackles during transport.

5. The Sheriff's Department has requested installation of a high-security fence enclosure around the loading/unloading area (sally port). The 2003-2004 Grand Jury recommended a security enclosure. The enclosure is scheduled for installation in the spring of 2006.
6. Inmates are generally not thoroughly searched due to gender-specific officer limitations.
7. The inmate worker housed in the facility is responsible for cooking, general cleaning, and other duties as assigned.
8. The inmate worker has unmonitored access to the outside area adjacent to the holding facility, including the parking lot, public library and courthouse.
9. The inmate worker is not searched for contraband on his return from the area outside the holding facility.
10. Construction of a new regional correctional facility has been informally discussed within the law enforcement community.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. The public, including young children, is exposed to a potentially dangerous situation when prisoners are walked to and from the holding facility.
2. The public is exposed to potentially dangerous situations when the inmate worker is left unmonitored.
3. The high-security fence enclosure would enhance security of the holding facility and safety of the officers and public.
4. A new regional correctional facility would benefit the Town of Truckee and the counties of Nevada, Placer, Sierra and El Dorado.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. The Sheriff's Department should direct that transportation of inmates between the holding facility and the courthouse is always done in a secure vehicle.

2. The Sheriff's Department should monitor the inmate worker at all times while he/she is outside the holding facility.
3. The Board of Supervisors should make every effort to expedite the Spring 2006 construction of the high-security fence enclosure at the holding facility.
4. The Board of Supervisors should continue to review the feasibility of a regional correctional facility in light of the rapidly growing population in the Truckee community and surrounding area.

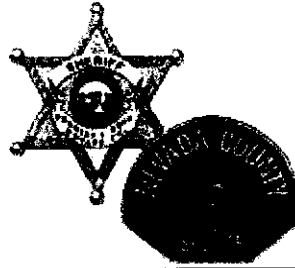
### **RESPONSES REQUIRED**

Nevada County Board of Supervisors - August 30, 2006

Nevada County Sheriff's Department – July 31, 2006

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**NEVADA COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE**



**KEITH ROYAL  
SHERIFF/CORONER  
PUBLIC  
ADMINISTRATOR**

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June 27, 2006

Honorable Judge Al Dover  
Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury  
Superior Court of Nevada County  
201 Church Street  
Nevada City, CA 95959

Re: 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report: Inspection of Correctional Facilities in Nevada  
County-Truckee Sheriff's Holding Facility

Dear Judge Dover:

This correspondence is prepared in response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report, dated  
May 30, 2006, relative their findings, conclusions and recommendations as they pertain to  
the Nevada County Sheriff's Office Correctional Facility in Truckee.

**FINDINGS**

**Truckee Sheriff's Holding Facility**

- 1) *"The holding facility was built in the early 1960's and has an inmate capacity of 11.*

Disagree partially. The facility was built in the early 1960's. The inmate capacity is  
12; eight male, two female, one Nevada County trustee and one Placer County  
trustee.

- 2) *"The holding facility is staffed with six female correctional officers, one court bailiff  
and one transport officer.*

Agree.

- 3) *The holding facility includes an outdoor inmate loading/unloading dock located in an  
unsecured open area in close proximity to a public library.*

Agree

- 4) *Inmates are walked, or driven, by an armed officer to and from the nearby courthouse. Inmates are handcuffed and in leg shackles during transport.*

Agree

- 5) *The Sheriff's Department has requested installation of a high-security fence enclosure around the loading/unloading area (Sally Port). The 2003-2004 Grand Jury recommended a security enclosure. The enclosure is scheduled for installation in the spring of 2006.*

Disagree partially. The enclosure has not yet been installed. We are hoping for completion by mid-summer 2006.

- 6) *Inmates are generally not thoroughly searched due to gender-specific officer limitation.*

Agree. For clarification, inmates are pat-searched for contraband.

- 7) *The inmate worker housed in the facility is responsible for cooking, general cleaning, and other duties as assigned.*

Agree

- 8) *The inmate worker has unmonitored access to the outside area adjacent to the holding facility, including the parking lot, public library and courthouse.*

Disagree partially. The inmate is monitored, although not continuously. The inmate notifies correctional staff when exiting the facility and apprises them of his whereabouts. He needs to enter the courthouse as that is where he gets the supplies he needs for cleaning, etc.

- 9) *The inmate worker is not searched for contraband on his return from the area outside the holding facility.*

Agree.

- 10) *Construction of a new regional correctional facility has been informally discussed within the law enforcement community.*

Agree.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) *The Sheriff's Department should direct that transportation of inmates between the holding facility and the courthouse is always done in a secure vehicle.*

This recommendation will not be implemented on a rare occasion. It is the procedure of the Nevada County Sheriff's Office to transport all inmates to and from court via a secured jail transport vehicle. Only on rare occasions do circumstances require that any inmate be escorted to the courthouse on foot (handcuffed and in leg shackles) from the Truckee Jail. There are occasions when the single jail transport vehicle is already in use when the judge requests another inmate be transported to court. Inmate security risk along with classification issues are always taken into consideration prior to escorting an inmate to court.

- 2) *The Sheriff's Department should monitor the inmate worker at all times while he/she is outside the holding facility.*

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable. Correctional staff at the Truckee Jail Facility can not monitor the inmate worker at all times when he is outside the facility as we do not have the staff to do this. Inmate workers at the Truckee facility are low risk minimum-security sentenced inmates who do not pose a risk to the public or the facility. Their conduct and work performance are regularly monitored by staff. They can and will be returned to Wayne Brown Correctional Facility if they fail to abide by our rules.

- 3) *The Board of Supervisors should make every effort to expedite the Spring 2006 construction of the high-security fence enclosure at the holding facility.*

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but is to be completed by mid-summer 2006.

- 4) *The Board of Supervisors should continue to review the feasibility of a regional correctional facility in light of the rapidly growing population in the Truckee community and surrounding area.*

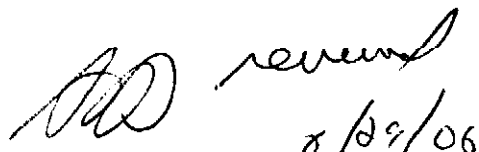
The recommendation requires further analysis. It is my opinion that the Board of Supervisors would be prudent to review the feasibility of a regional correctional facility in Eastern Nevada County. At this time there is no funding available. There would be many hurdles to overcome, relative community concerns, equitable cost-sharing among the contiguous counties and impact upon the current facility.

Sincerely,



Sheriff Keith Royal

cc: Pat Ward, Board Analyst  
Ray Hoffman, Grand Jury Foreman



AD  
revised  
8/29/06

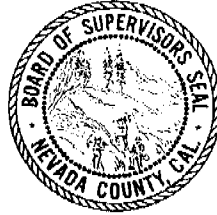
# COUNTY OF NEVADA

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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August 8, 2006

The Honorable Judge Al Dover  
Presiding Judge of the Nevada County Courts  
Nevada County Court House  
Nevada City CA 95959

Subject: Board of Supervisors Responses to the 2005-2006 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report,  
*Grand Jury Inspection of Correctional Facilities in Nevada County - Truckee Holding Facility*

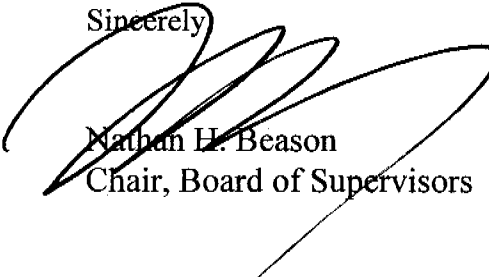
Dear Judge Dover:

The attached responses by the Board of Supervisors to the 2005-2006 Nevada County Civil Grand Jury Report, dated June 1, 2006, entitled *Grand Jury Inspection of Correctional Facilities in Nevada County - Truckee Holding Facility*, are submitted as required by California Penal Code §933.

These responses to the Grand Jury's Findings and Recommendations were approved by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting on August 8, 2006. Responses to Findings and Recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official County records, information received from the Sheriff's Office, or the Board of Supervisors and County staff members.

The Board of Supervisors would like to thank the members of the 2005-2006 Grand Jury for their participation and effort in preparing their Reports, and their participation in the Grand Jury process.

Sincerely,



Nathan H. Beason  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

### Attachment

cc: Foreman, Grand Jury  
Keith Royal, Sheriff  
Rick Haffey, County Executive Officer

**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RESPONSES TO  
2005-2006 CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT  
DATED JUNE 1, 2006**

**INSPECTION OF CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES IN NEVADA COUNTY – TRUCKEE  
HOLDING FACILITY**

*Responses to findings and recommendations are based on either personal knowledge, examination of official county records, review of the responses by the Sheriff or County Executive Officer, or testimony from the Board of Supervisors and County staff members.*

*Reviewed A.P.O. 2/15/06*

**I. GRAND JURY INVESTIGATION:**

**Inspection of Correctional Facilities in Nevada County – Truckee Holding Facility**

**A. RESPONSE TO FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**Findings:**

- 1. The holding facility was built in the early 1960's and has an inmate capacity of 11.**

Partially agree.

The facility was built in the early 1960's. The inmate capacity is 12, eight male, two female, one Nevada County trustee and one Placer County trustee.

- 2. The holding facility is staffed with six female correctional officers, one court bailiff and one transport officer.**

Agree

- 3. The holding facility includes an outdoor inmate loading/unloading dock located in an unsecured open area in close proximity to a public library.**

Agree

- 4. Inmates are walked, or driven, by an armed officer to and from the nearby courthouse. Inmates are handcuffed and in leg shackles during transport.**

Agree

- 5. The Sheriff's Department has requested installation of a high-security fence enclosure around the loading/unloading area (sally port). The 2003-2004 Grand Jury recommended a security enclosure. The enclosure is scheduled for installation in the spring of 2006.**



Partially agree.

The enclosure has not yet been installed. On July 11, 2006 the Board approved a bid for construction of the fence. Completion is expected by August 31, 2006. See response to Recommendation No. 2.

**6. Inmates are generally not thoroughly searched due to gender-specific officer limitations.**

Agree

For clarification, inmates are pat-searched for contraband.

**7. The inmate worker housed in the facility is responsible for cooking, general cleaning, and other duties as assigned.**

Agree

**8. The inmate worker has unmonitored access to the outside area adjacent to the holding facility, including the parking lot, public library and courthouse.**

Partially agree.

The inmate is monitored, although not continuously. The escorted inmate notifies correctional staff when exiting the facility and apprises them of his whereabouts. He needs to enter the courthouse, as that is where he gets the supplies for cleaning, etc.

**9. The inmate worker is not searched for contraband on his return from the area outside the holding facility.**

Agree

**10. Construction of a new regional correctional facility has been informally discussed within the law enforcement community.**

Agree

## **Recommendations:**

- 1. The Sheriff's Department should direct that transportation of inmates between the holding facility and the courthouse is always done in a secure vehicle.**

This recommendation has been implemented, with some exceptions.

It is the procedure of the Nevada County Sheriff's office to transport all inmates to and from court via a secured jail transport vehicle. Only on rare occasions do circumstances require that any inmate be escorted to the courthouse on foot (handcuffed and in leg shackles) from the Truckee Jail. There are occasions when the single jail transport vehicle is already in use when the judge requests another inmate be transported to court. Inmate security risk, along with classification issues, is always taken into consideration prior to escorting an inmate to court.

- 2. The Sheriff's Department should monitor the inmate worker at all times while he/she is outside the holding facility.**

The recommendation will not be implemented at this time.

Correctional staff at the Truckee Jail facility can not monitor the inmate worker at all times when he is outside the facility because the Sheriff does not have the staff to do this. Inmate workers at the Truckee facility are low-risk, minimum-security sentenced inmates who do not pose a risk to the public or the facility. Their conduct and work performance are regularly monitored by staff. They can and will be returned to Wayne Brown Correctional Facility if they fail to abide by Correctional Facility rules.

- 3. The Board of Supervisors should make every effort to expedite the Spring 2006 construction of the high-security fence enclosure at the holding facility.**

The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by August 31, 2006.

- 4. The Board of Supervisors should continue to review the feasibility of a regional correctional facility in light of the rapidly growing population in the Truckee community and surrounding area.**

The recommendation has been implemented.

The County reviews and prioritizes capital facility needs annually. While a regional Truckee correctional facility was not included in the plan approved by the Board in January 2006, it will be added to the facilities list for consideration in 2007.

The County is ever watchful for capital facility funding opportunities. Generally, county correctional facilities are funded at least partially by State bond funds because of high construction costs associated with the specialized design of correctional facilities. The recently constructed Juvenile Detention Facility was funded in this manner. In January 2006, the

Governor unveiled an infrastructure plan for the State. One component of this plan was funding for local jails. Conditions of this funding included a 50% county matching requirement and a provision for housing State prisoners with 90 days remaining on their sentences. The plan was not approved by the legislature.

In 2005, Placer County, Nevada County and the Administrative Office of the Court discussed the establishment of a Truckee shared court facility, including a regional jail. It was determined at that time that the cost to participate in such a facility exceeded the benefit. The Sheriff and the CEO's office will continue to review the feasibility of a regional correctional facility in Truckee while seeking funding opportunities to support such a facility. However, we see many challenges to such a project including community concerns relative to siting, equitable cost sharing among the contiguous counties, and impacts upon the current facility.

## **REQUIRED RESPONSES**

Board of Supervisors – by August 30, 2006

Nevada County Sheriff's Department – July 31, 2006