



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

September 5, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSES TO THE 2005-2006 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
(ALL DISTRICTS AFFECTED) (3 VOTES)**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Approve the responses to the 2005-2006 findings and recommendations of the Grand Jury that pertain to County government matters under the control of your Board.
2. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to transmit copies of this report to the Grand Jury upon approval by your Board.
3. Instruct the Executive Officer of the Board of Supervisors to file a copy of this report with the Superior Court upon approval by your Board.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Section 933 (b) of the California Penal Code establishes that, after grand juries submit their final reports, the county boards of supervisors shall comment on the findings and recommendations of the grand jury, which pertain to county government matters under control of those boards.

In June 2006, the 2005-2006 County of Los Angeles Grand Jury issued its Final Report containing findings and recommendations directed to various County and non-County agencies. County department heads have reported back on the Grand Jury recommendations, and these responses are attached as the County's response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Final Report.

The recommendations directed to all future Grand Juries have been forwarded to the 2006-2007 Grand Jury for consideration. Recommendations associated with non-County agencies have been referred directly by the Grand Jury to the following agencies: Bell Gardens Police Department, City of Glendale, City of Long Beach, City of Redondo Beach, Los Angeles Unified School District, the Metropolitan Water District, and the City of Los Angeles, including the Administrative Officer, the Fire Department, the Police Department, and the Department of Water and Power.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

These recommendations are consistent with the following Countywide Strategic Plan Goal:

Goal No. 3: Organizational Effectiveness: Ensure that service delivery systems are efficient, effective, and goal-oriented.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Certain Grand Jury recommendations require additional financing resources. As an example, the Grand Jury recommends that this Office allocate staff resources and funds to the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to expand efforts that address resident preparedness. In some cases, financing has been approved by your Board in the current fiscal year's budget. Departments will assess the need for additional financing to implement other recommendations and submit requests for Board consideration during the 2007-2008 Budget cycle, as appropriate.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

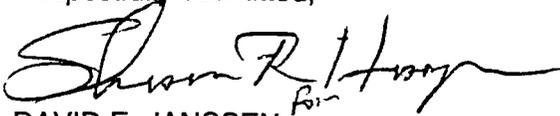
In accordance with California Penal Code Section 933 (b), the following departments have submitted responses to the 2005-2006 County of Los Angeles Grand Jury Final Report:

ATTACHMENT	DEPARTMENT
A	Chief Administrative Office
B	Auditor-Controller
C	Fire Department
D	Health Services
E	Internal Services
F	Natural History Museum
G	Parks and Recreation
H	Probation Department
I	Public Social Services
J	Public Works
K	Sanitation Districts
L	Sheriff

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Not applicable.

Respectfully submitted,



DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

DEJ:MKZ
DS:VLA:pg

Attachments

c: Sheriff
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court
Auditor-Controller
County Counsel
Fire Chief
Grand Jury
Director and President, Museum of Natural History
Director and Chief Medical Officer of Health Services
Director of Internal Services
Chief Engineer and General Manager, Sanitation Districts
Chief Probation Officer
Director of Parks and Recreation
Director of Public Social Services
Director of Public Works

ATTACHMENT A

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE



County of Los Angeles
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Board of Supervisors
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First District

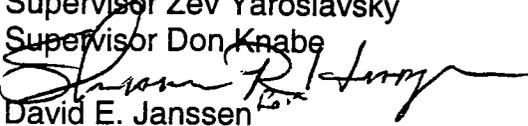
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

August 25, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

2005-06 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

Attached is this Office's response to the 2005-06 Grand Jury Final Report. We are responding to specific recommendations dealing with the following applicable sections:

- Hall of Justice; and
- Emergency Communication, Are We Ready?;
- Millions of Tax Dollars Lost to Child Care Fraud.

Please note that we have previously responded via a memorandum (Exhibit) to your Board regarding the following section:

- A Disaster Waiting to Happen at Los Angeles County General Hospital.

If you have questions regarding our responses, please contact me, or your staff may contact Martin Zimmerman of this Office at (213) 974-1326 or mzimmerman@cao.lacounty.gov.

DEJ:MKZ
DS:VLA:pg

Attachments

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE-FINANCIAL
ASSET MANAGEMENT BRANCH (FAMB)

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
HALL OF JUSTICE

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) must formulate a strategic plan for the Hall of Justice.

RESPONSE

The CAO has prepared a strategic plan for the renovation of the Hall of Justice. This plan reflects an incremental approach to the proposed project rather than a standard approval of all aspects of a project at one decision point. This 'step by step' approach has been accepted by the Board of Supervisors as the way to get to the point where the County will either proceed with a renovation project or potentially make the decision to sell the property.

On August 8, 2006 the Board approved a contract which will provide nonstructural interior demolition of unnecessary building components. The hollow clay tiles used as support for lathe and plaster walls will be removed along with the finishing plaster material, partition walls, carpeting and floor tiles and ceilings. This will result in a building where all unforeseen building conditions can be assessed which will lead to an accurate cost estimate of the proposed renovation project.

The interior demolition phase will be completed in mid 2007 and the CAO will return to the Board with an updated project cost estimate, financing plan and property appraisal. A decision will be made at that time whether to proceed with the project or to dispose of the property in some manner.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

The CAO take appropriate steps to make sure the County does not lose the \$16 million FEMA Grant currently scheduled to expire in 2006.

RESPONSE

On April 13, 2006, the CAO formally requested a time extension from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) on the grant for hazard mitigation and seismic repair at the Hall of Justice. The CAO is confident that the time extension will be granted.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE-OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION, ARE WE READY?

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The County of Los Angeles Chief Administrative Office (CAO) should reallocate staff resources and funds to OEM to expand efforts that address resident preparedness.

RESPONSE

The Office of Emergency Management (OEM) will be adding (5) staff members this year. One of the positions will be assigned to work specifically on the Emergency Survival Program (ESP [a public education program]). Funding to support public education has and will continue to be obtained once the specific need(s) and funding requirement(s) are identified. Funding is obtained through the budgetary process, grant acquisitions and donations.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

OEM should employ social marketing approaches to design and acquire the needed resources for a strategy that will be effective in inspiring Los Angeles County residents to prepare for emergencies. The County CAO should revise current budget allocations to fund this effort.

RESPONSE

OEM has applied for a \$250,000 Homeland Security Grant to fund a marketing campaign to promote emergency preparedness. It is anticipated that OEM will receive the award in November 2006. OEM is currently working jointly with the City of Los Angeles to develop a request for proposal to identify the appropriate firm(s) for this project.

The Internal Services Department (ISD) has existing agreements with printing companies that allows for the production of give-away marketing items. ISD normally does not develop Board approved master agreements unless they relate to an ISD line of business. If the Board desires a change in this policy/practice, ISD will meet with the appropriate CAO representative to discuss.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

- a. The CAO should allocate staff resources and funds to provide resources to prepare basic information materials in more languages, supplementing the efforts under way through Public Health.
- b. Public Health should enter into translation contracts that will permit a four-hour turnaround of message translation in the event of a public health emergency.

RESPONSE

As stated in the response to recommendation No. 1, OEM is allocating a full-time staff member to the ESP program. Pre-disaster information and education is addressed by ESP. OEM currently has most of the material in English and Spanish and continues to work with Public Health and others on translating this material. OEM is working on developing a Joint Information Center and developing protocols for providing information to the public. Translation issues are being discussed and recommendations are being formed by the planning group which is comprised of Public Information Officers from the various County Departments. Public Health will be contacted by our Office to explore the feasibility of implementing part b of this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Both City and County Administrative Officers should establish and pursue policies and programs that encourage employees to have emergency plans and supplies in place for their families.

RESPONSE

The County has a Department Emergency Coordinator (DEC) and Building Emergency Coordinator (BEC) program. Such information is routinely provided to these coordinators to share with employees within their organizations. The County also has routine emergency drills and postings of emergency preparedness information throughout County facilities where this information is also provided.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

- a. The CAO should ensure that responsible County of Los Angeles departments strengthen arrangements for the pre-emergency purchase and distribution of food, water, and clothing to vulnerable groups in the event of an emergency.
- b. OEM should develop and disseminate materials designed to assist animal owners in an emergency.

RESPONSE

- a. This recommendation would be extremely difficult to accomplish. There would first have to be a process for identifying and locating the “vulnerable groups”. Storage of the goods and process for distribution would also have to be addressed. There is also a strong likelihood that if these supplies are distributed prior to an event they will be used by the recipients or that they might keep the goods beyond expiration dates. OEM is also exploring a joint project with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) to develop a web-based data base to identify the specific needs population.
- b. The Los Angeles County Animal Care and Control Department is the lead agency in providing information on issues involving animals. This agency is routinely involved as a member of emergency planning groups and “animal evacuation” is a part of many of the emergency response and evacuation plans.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

The City and County Administrative Officers should expand resources that support citizen volunteers who provide assistance to their neighbors and emergency responders.

RESPONSE

OEM is currently negotiating a contract with UCLA to develop a registration and informational web site for Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) volunteers. This web site will allow community members to obtain information on CERT programs in their area, and sign up to become members. It will also be a registration site that can/will be used by first responders to identify available volunteers in an impacted area that can assist them in responding to the emergency.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

The City and County Administrative Officers should offer incentives and encourage programs that capitalize on the talents and interest of ham radio operators.

RESPONSE

The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department (LASD) is the lead agency on alert and warning for the County. They currently have numerous programs involving ham radio operators. OEM will confer with LASD to explore the feasibility of implementing this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and the Mayor of Los Angeles should ensure that the Governance Board proposed by the Radio Interoperability Steering Committee (RISC) is adopted and should pursue the development of countywide communication interoperability, using a standards-based shared platform.

RESPONSE

OEM is not involved in the radio interoperability efforts. However, the CAO, as well as the Sheriff, are active participants on this Steering Committee and every effort will be made to develop a countywide solution.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE-SERVICE
INTEGRATION BRANCH (SIB)

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS LOST TO CHILD CARE FRAUD

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

Each step of the DPSS process should be verified, and APP contracts and files should be monitored and audited: to prevent paying for child care not provided, to ensure that parents are eligible for child care support, to eliminate double billing, and to ensure that documentation required by the contract is in place through random reviews of APP files. DPSS has the primary responsibility for verification and should request assistance as needed from the Auditor-Controller, District Attorney and the Chief Administrative Office.

RESPONSE:

The Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) currently has an extensive system of monitoring and auditing the CalWORKs child care contracts which are administered by the 13 Alternative Payment Programs (APP) in Los Angeles County. Recent monitoring and auditing activities include:

- The CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care contracts are monitored by DPSS staff on a quarterly basis. However, DPSS staff are routinely at the APP agencies on a monthly basis, collecting data for the quarterly reports. The purpose of this monitoring process, which currently includes the random review of files, is to ensure accurate payment for services provided to eligible clients.
- As a part of the Auditor-Controller's Centralized Contract Monitoring Pilot Project, the CalWORKs Stage 1 child care contracts were audited during the 2003-04 and 2004-05 fiscal years. The points listed in Finding 6 were identified in the 2004-05 audit and were successfully resolved.
- At the close of contract, the California Department of Social Services requires that an outside firm conduct a fiscal audit. Simpson & Simpson conducted fiscal audits of all 13 of the CalWORKs Stage 1 contracts for the period of FY 2001-02, FY 2002-03 and FY 2003-04. These audits were completed December 2005 and DPSS reports that there were no substantive findings.
- In 2005, the firm of Conrad and Associates was hired by Auditor-Controller to audit the integrity of the child care payment systems utilized by the CalWORKs Stage 1 Child Care contractors. No material weaknesses were identified.

Because the APP agencies also have contracts with the California Department of Education, they are required to conduct annual, agency-wide audits using the services of independent auditors. The results of these audits are shared with DPSS.

The findings for recommendation 6 reported that child care payments were made for parents who were not qualified or enrolled in an activity which qualified them for benefits. Clearly, every effort should be made to guard against such situations. The report neglected to note however, that as currently structured, transitions from one CalWORKs activity to another are not always accomplished in a seamless manner. This reality contributes to the possibility that child care services could have been provided when a parent was not currently involved in an appropriate activity.

Given the current level of monitoring and auditing that the APP agencies are subject too, it is unlikely that more monitoring and auditing would produce better outcomes. It may be more beneficial to examine the 49 cases where CalWORKs child care fraud was successfully prosecuted for the purpose of better understanding the practices that resulted in the identification and successful prosecution of persons defrauding CalWORKs child care.

It is unfortunate that the overall report failed to distinguish between human error associated with managing large numbers of paper and electronic files, and intentional fraud. While making frequent references to the California Department of Education Error Rate Study, the Grand Jury failed to mention the low error rates actually attributed to CalWORKs Stage 1 child care.

Clearly, child care resources are precious and must be carefully administered. Investments in system improvements, which maximize the use of technology, may be more beneficial than additional auditing.

continue to be evaluated on a daily basis, and when additional Jail Ward beds require increased staffing beyond available County nursing staff, LAC+USC will assign traveler and registry nurses to that unit to meet the need.

As a short-term and continuing effort, LAC+USC has developed and is strengthening current strategies to improve recruitment and retention of staff nurses to ensure that the inpatient Jail Medical Services Unit continues to be properly staffed with nurses, as well as to meet nurse staffing needs of other LAC+USC medical wards and at all County hospitals. DHS staff indicate, however, that although LAC+USC will continue to ensure that inmate patients are not unnecessarily placed in open wards, a small number of inmate patients will still require placement in open wards due to their specialized clinical needs. Attachment II is the DHS response to the Grand Jury's Recommendation Number 4 regarding placement of inmate patients on open wards at the hospital.

For the immediate and short-term at Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers, the LASD Medical Services Bureau (MSB) clinical staff have agreed to treat routine, less critical injuries on site at LASD facilities, rather than transporting those inmates to LAC+USC. Since LASD staff have not performed such procedures for some time, protocols are being developed, and LASD is currently consulting with staff from LAC+USC that teach these such courses on an ongoing basis. LASD is continuing to review procedures which might be performed by LASD clinicians, in order to further reduce the number of cases transported to the Jail Medical Services Unit at the hospital.

In addition, LAC+USC and LASD clinical staff are working on changes to the current processes related to ordering diagnostic tests for inmate patients, to enable LASD physicians to directly order diagnostic testing at LAC+USC rather than first requiring another in-person examination of inmate patients by LAC+USC physicians. Staff are developing a system which will allow direct access to LAC+USC diagnostic test results by authorized LASD clinical staff. In order to facilitate diagnostic testing, LASD is also working with LAC+USC staff to expedite necessary laboratory services.

On a related issue, to improve the clinical care provided to inmate patients, discussions have also dealt with improving the flow of medical records information between DHS and LASD, with the potential of allowing access by authorized LASD and DHS staff to their respective information systems, consistent with confidentiality requirements.

Many of the issues related to jail medical services, primarily in the area of outpatient medical services and specialty clinic services, require a longer-range plan, one that is expected to take approximately 12 months to 18 months to implement. The timing of this effort is particularly important in light of the upcoming move, targeted for November 2007, of the LAC+USC Medical Center programs into the LAC+USC Replacement

Each Supervisor
May 3, 2006
Page 3

Facility, which will reduce the amount of outpatient clinic space available at the hospital for jail medical services. In late February 2006, DHS and LASD established a working group consisting of both clinical and management staff to develop the plan for providing clinical services on-site at Men's Central Jail or at Twin Towers and of using LASD's telemedicine system, where appropriate, to reduce the need to transport inmate patients. Staff from my office also participate in the working group meetings.

The working group has met several times over the past two months to identify the specific clinical programs that might best be set up at LASD sites. At the most recent meeting, on Monday, April 24, 2006, members of the working group toured the Men's Central Jail and Twin Towers, to evaluate the available space at those locations which could be established as additional clinical treatment space. Several areas were identified as potential sites as a result of that visit and will be discussed further by the working group members.

The group will continue to meet on at least a monthly basis, and more frequently as needed, over the coming months to develop the plan. Next steps will include a more detailed review and discussion of current workload and the needed outpatient and specialty clinical services. Discussions by LAC+USC staff will include the clinical department chairs and this review of clinical programs will serve as the basis for the next phase of discussions about which services would best be provided in the available LASD space or at the LAC+USC Medical Center. The discussions will also review which services would lend themselves to the use of telemedicine. While the group is still developing the specific milestones within its timeline, the target date for implementation of this plan is May/June 2007, to ensure that a workable approach has been implemented by the November 2007 date for occupancy of the Replacement Facility.

Finally, we are continuing to review the issue regarding the pay differential between nursing positions in DHS and LASD. As of April 27, 2006, preliminary discussions with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 660 have concluded concerning a new pay structure and differential for LAC+USC jail ward nurses, as well for other corrections facility nursing assignments, some of which are currently receiving a pay differential amount. Meetings with managers of nursing and related medical services will take place within the next two to three weeks. This is a negotiable issue, and a bargaining position concerning a bonus or some other option of additional compensation will be considered and, if appropriate, developed for your Board's consideration when bargaining for the nursing units commences.

In summary, our Departments continue to work together to develop and implement the short range and longer-range proposals to address the Grand Jury recommendations.

Each Supervisor
May 3, 2006
Page 4

These recommendations are consistent with efforts both Departments had already begun and will now move forward aggressively in order to improve the delivery of medical services to inmate patients, while continuing to ensure the safety of the general public served by County health facilities.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me or your staff may contact Sheila Shima of my staff, at (213) 974-1160. In addition, questions regarding LASD or DHS programs, may be directed to Captain Rodney Penner, LASD at (213) 893-5460 and Wesley Ford, Director of Ambulatory Care, DHS at (213) 240-8334.

DEJ:SRH:DL
SAS:CA:bjs

Attachments

c: Sheriff
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Acting Director of Health Services
Director of Personnel



County of Los Angeles
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

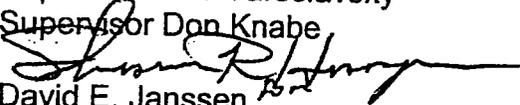
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DAVID E. JANSSEN
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors
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YVONNE B. BURKE
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Third District
DON KNABE
Fourth District
MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

February 9, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: 
David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

Leroy D. Baca
Sheriff


Bruce A. Chernof
Acting Director and Chief Medical Officer

**PRELIMINARY RESPONSE TO 2005-06 CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT ON THE
JAIL WARD AT LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER**

We were recently provided with a copy of the 2005-06 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury's report on the Sheriff's Department's (LASD) transfers of inmate-patients to the Los Angeles County+University of Southern California (LAC+USC) Medical Center and nurse staffing issues for the LAC+USC Jail Ward.

Our staff met today to discuss the report and recommendations and this is our initial review and preliminary response to the Grand Jury recommendations. However, we will return at a later date with a more detailed review, including action steps and timeframes needed to implement the recommendations.

The Grand Jury report deals with LASD staff transfers of patients to LAC+USC and with services provided by LAC+USC for inmate-patients in the LAC+USC Jail Ward, as well as the general hospital wards. The report mentions the pay differential between nursing positions in LASD and nursing positions in the Department of Health Services (DHS), as

well as the fact that inmate patients are placed, with supervision, on general hospital wards, if there are nurse staffing shortages in the LAC+USC Jail Ward or if clinical needs dictate (placement in the general intensive care unit).

The report has four recommendations which are summarized as follows: (1) LASD should increase the use of medical personnel at Twin Towers; (2) LASD should fast-track implementation of telemedicine programs; (3) the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) should authorize DHS to hire nurses using LASD nurse classifications or allow a manpower shortage bonus for LAC+USC jail ward nurses; and (4) DHS should cease accepting inmate-patients onto general hospital wards, amongst the general public.

In response to the first recommendation, LASD concurs and has already initiated steps to increase the number of incidents wherein LASD Jail Medical personnel perform suturing. LASD suturing efforts will focus on routine, less-critical injuries, and LASD will continue to refer cases to LAC+USC with wounds on the face, neck, head, and certain extremity areas. This will require updated training for some LASD physician staff who have not performed this type of procedure in some time. LASD will establish protocols and provide training to Registered Nurse Practitioners, so they can also provide this service.

LASD indicates that the Medical Services Bureau's (MSB) new Chief Physician is supportive of increasing LASD activity in this area. LASD Personnel were recently sent to specialized training to enhance their ability to perform Incision and Drainage (IND) procedures, and MSB will continue to explore their ability to perform other types of minor surgical procedures.

The recommendation that MSB staff engage in the setting of fractures and other related orthopedic functions will require further study, due to the specialty of the involved process and the potential accompanying liability. The MSB is already aggressively pursuing the implementation of a Bureau-wide telemedicine system, which they believe will significantly enhance their ability to provide continuing quality health care. They have identified equipment and software and have made on-site visits of existing telemedicine systems already in use. Acquisition of the initial system will proceed once the County purchasing and contracting process has been completed.

In response to recommendation 2, LASD has had ongoing discussion with LAC+USC Medical Center staff, specifically as it relates to the provision of specialty clinic follow-up appointments. Dr. Marie Russell, head of Jail Ward operations at LAC+USC has partnered with LASD in the development and implementation of the DHS link to the

Each Supervisor
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Page 3

LASD telemedicine system. Once final procurement issues are resolved, LASD anticipates the system will go online sometime during summer 2006.

With respect to recommendation 3, the CAO recognizes that Registered Nurses assigned to the LAC+USC Jail Ward work in a unique environment. A new nursing pay plan has been designed which will consider compensability for factors such as unique work characteristics. In the interim, the CAO will be working with DHS to resolve any classification and compensation issues pending the full implementation of a new nursing pay plan.

In response to recommendation 4, DHS agrees with the spirit of the Civil Grand Jury recommendations of limiting the placement of inmate patients to the LAC+USC Jail Ward. Unfortunately, there will always be a small subset of patients with special clinical needs requirements that can only be done on open wards. Examples include Intensive/Critical Care units, burn units, obstetrics, etc. DHS will work to staff up the LAC+USC Jail Ward to full capacity using appropriate adult medical surgical nurses. Further, DHS will assist LASD in their development of alternate acute care delivery strategies should LAC+USC need to go on diversion because the Jail Ward is at full capacity.

Please contact us if you have questions or need additional information.

DEJ:LDB:BAC
SRH:DL:SAS:bjs

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Auditor-Controller
Director of Personnel

ATTACHMENT B

AUDITOR-CONTROLLER



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

August 14, 2006

TO: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTENTION: Vincent Amerson, CAO Analyst

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley *JTM*
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-2006 LOS ANGELES COUNTY
GRAND JURY**

We have reviewed the Final Report of the 2005-06 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, and agree with the Grand Jury's recommendations which impact the Auditor-Controller. My staff is working with the Chief Administrative Officer and other affected departments to implement the recommendations related to the Auditor-Controller as soon as possible.

Please call if you have any questions, or your staff may contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MMO:JLS

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
THE HALL OF JUSTICE

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

Conduct a full audit disclosing all monies spent relative to the Hall of Justice since January 1994.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

Conduct a full audit disclosing the County of Los Angeles' actual monies spent on cost of leasing office space for displaced employees and departments who were housed in the Hall of Justice on January 1994, along with moving and ancillary costs in the first quarter of 2007.

RESPONSE

The Chief Administrative Office (CAO) provided us with the required information on all Hall of Justice expenditures and costs associated with displaced employees and departments. We will audit the reported expenditures to validate the amounts and report the results to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

Conduct a full audit disclosing financial and physical projections determining when the building could be ready for occupancy.

RESPONSE

The CAO and the Department of Public Works (DPW) prepared and presented an Environmental Impact Report certified by the Board of Supervisors in June 2006. DPW is working with a third party cost estimator to prepare an updated comprehensive total cost estimate and schedule for the Hall of Justice and will report the results to the Board.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Conduct a full audit disclosing actual market value if sold as real estate.

RESPONSE

The CAO indicated that their Real Estate Division plans to contract with an outside consultant to perform an appraisal on the property in the first quarter of 2007 and will address this recommendation in a report to the Board.

ATTACHMENT C

FIRE DEPARTMENT



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

FIRE DEPARTMENT

1320 NORTH EASTERN AVENUE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90063-3294
(323) 881-2401

P. MICHAEL FREEMAN
FIRE CHIEF
FORESTER & FIRE WARDEN

August 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

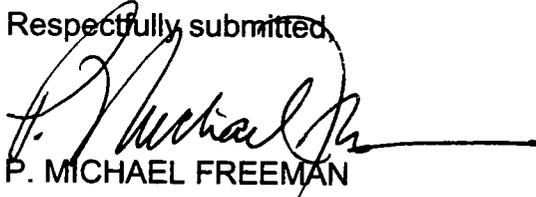
Dear Supervisors:

RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-06 LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRAND JURY

Attached is the Los Angeles County Fire Department's response to the 2005-06 Grand Jury Report's recommendations (Attachment B). The Grand Jury's areas of interest specific to the Department include the Emergency Communication Sections of the report.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact me.

Respectfully submitted,



P. MICHAEL FREEMAN

PMF:lyg

Attachment

SERVING THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY AND THE CITIES OF:

AGOURA HILLS
ARTESIA
AZUSA
BALDWIN PARK
BELL
BELL GARDENS
BELLFLOWER

BRADBURY
CALABASAS
CARSON
CERRITOS
CLAREMONT
COMMERCE
COVINA

CUDAHY
DIAMOND BAR
DUARTE
EL MONTE
GARDENA
GLENORA
HAWAIIAN GARDENS

HAWTHORNE
HIDDEN HILLS
HUNTINGTON PARK
INDUSTRY
INGLEWOOD
IRWINDALE
LA CANADA FLINTRIDGE

LA HABRA
LA MIRADA
LA PUENTE
LAKEWOOD
LANCASTER
LAWNDALE
LOMITA

LYNWOOD
MALIBU
MAYWOOD
NORWALK
PALMDALE
PALOS VERDES ESTATES
PARAMOUNT

PICO RIVERA
POMONA
RANCHO PALOS VERDES
ROLLING HILLS
ROLLING HILLS ESTATES
ROSEMEAD
SAN DIMAS
SANTA CLARITA

SIGNAL HILL
SOUTH EL MONTE
SOUTH GATE
TEMPLE CITY
WALNUT
WEST HOLLYWOOD
WESTLAKE VILLAGE
WHITTIER

RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – FIRE DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS, ARE WE READY?

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

The LACFD Chief, LAFD Chief, LAPD Chief, and the Sheriff should continue to pursue the adoption of promising communication technology.

RESPONSE

The above departments are actively pursuing the adoption of promising communications technology in a joint effort referred to as the RISC Group (Regional Interoperability Steering Committee). This effort includes the eventual design and build-out of a standards-based, shared communications system (voice and data) for the Los Angeles Region.

The RISC Group has identified \$1.5 million in UASI (Urban Area Security Initiative) Grant funds to engage a consultant who will continue forward progress on the project including the design of a regional architectural structure. The RISC Group is also developing a permanent governing body for the regional effort with input from the consultant. The body will include the leadership identified in the Grand Jury's recommendation as well as representatives from the Chief Administrative Offices of both Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City, California Contract Cities Association and the Independent Cities Association.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

When the Los Angeles City and County purchases new communication equipment, bid documents should require suppliers to offer maintenance, parts, training, and related services throughout the life of the system.

RESPONSE

The Fire Department will work with the Internal Services Department (ISD) to determine which of the Grand Jury's recommended requirements can be implemented based on cost impact to the projects/potential vendors, operational considerations, and current County requirements with regard to contracts.

Immediate communication needs are already being addressed with some bid processes already completed. The Los Angeles County Fire Department has identified \$40 million in its spending plan for the replacement of equipment including portable and mobile radios and critical coverage and current infrastructure maintenance for necessary interim upgrades. The status of the Department's communication project includes the following:

- Portable radios have been ordered for the Department and will be distributed for use this fiscal year.
- The bid for the Department's mobile radios is scheduled to be completed by the end of the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2006-07.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Mobile Data Replacement Project is scheduled to be issued in the first quarter of Fiscal Year 2007-08.

ATTACHMENT D

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
SERVICES**

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Cease and desist accepting inmate-patients for bed placement on Open Wards amongst the general public.

RESPONSE

The Department of Health Services (DHS) concurs with this recommendation and with its intended purpose of protecting patients, staff and visitors to the Medical Center. Nurse staffing was increased in the inpatient Jail Medical Services unit on February 21, 2006 to accommodate the current census of 15 to 20 inmate patients who require a medical/surgical bed. Nurse staffing requirements are evaluated daily, and if additional beds require staffing for inmate patients, traveler and registry nurses will be assigned to the unit. In order to ensure that the inpatient jail medical services unit is properly staffed with nurses for the long-term, LAC+USC is developing strategies to improve recruitment and retention of staff nurses for the Jail Medical Services Unit

However, it is important to note that there will always be a small subset of inmate patients with specialized clinical needs that can only be accommodated on open wards. Examples of such requirements for specialized care include those that can only be delivered in Intensive/Critical Care units, burn units and obstetrical units. We work closely with the Sheriff's Department to assure that security for these inmates is maintained at the proper level to meet patient, staff and visitor security needs.

It is LAC+USC's goal that all inmate patients not requiring higher level of care settings will be placed in the Jail Medical Services Unit. Physicians requesting their inmate patients be placed outside of the Jail Medical Unit for reasons other than higher acuity must receive authorization for the Jail Services Medical Director.

DHS is also working closely with the Sheriff's Department to increase the scope and size of clinical services that are available at Twin Towers which may reduce the number of inpatient admissions to the Jail Medical Services Unit at LAC+USC or permit the faster transfer of patients back to the Jail for the non-acute portion of their inpatient stay.

ATTACHMENT E

INTERNAL SERVICES



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
Internal Services Department

1100 North Eastern Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90063



Dave Lambertson
Director

To enrich lives through effective and caring service.

Telephone: (323) 267-2101
FAX: (323) 264-7135

August 10, 2006

To: Each Supervisor

From: Dave Lambertson *DL*
Director

Subject: **RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-2006
LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRAND JURY**

The attached is the ISD response to Recommendation 11 of the 2005-2006 Civil Grand Jury Final Report.

If there are any questions, you may contact me or have your staff contact Richard Sanchez, General Manager, Information Technology Service, at (562) 940-2901 or email: rsanchez@isd.co.la.ca.us.

DL:ld

Attachment

c: Chief Administrative Officer
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Vincent Amerson, CAO's Office

RESPONSE TO THE 2005-2006 GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – INTERNAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION: ARE WE READY?

RECOMMENDATION NO. 11

The City and County Administrative Officers require that proposals for new communication systems or major system improvements specify the life cycle cost of operations, maintenance and training, and allocate funds as required.

RESPONSE

For communications systems that might be vital in emergency situations, when proposals for new communications systems or major system improvements are developed, life cycle cost of operations, maintenance and training will be identified. The actual allocation of funds will be subject to budget priorities and the Board of Supervisors' approval.

ATTACHMENT F

MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

Natural History

of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Boulevard • Los Angeles, CA 90007

Dr. Jane G. Pisano
President & Director

213•763•3301 t
213•746•7538 f
jpisano@nhm.org

August 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY 2005-2006 FINAL REPORT: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

As instructed by David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer, please find enclosed the response from the Natural History Museum to the Final Report of the 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Grand Jury.

Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at (213) 763-3302 or Jural J. Garrett, Chief Deputy Director at (213) 763-3303.

Sincerely,



DR. JANE G. PISANO
Director and President
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

Enclosure

c: Jural J. Garrett, Chief Deputy Director
Dolores Gonzales, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance
Hannah Cheng, Chief Administrative Office

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
DISABLED ACCESS TO PERFORMING ARTS AND VISUAL ARTS
FACILITIES AND COUNTY PARKS IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

That the County of Los Angeles install a TDD machine at the Page Museum.

RESPONSE

The Natural History Museum will make arrangements through the Department of Internal Services to install a TDD machine at George C. Page Museum (Page) located at 5801 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90036. It is anticipated that the installation of the unit should be completed by December 2006. All literature distributed at Page will be updated to include the TDD telephone number once the unit is installed.

ATTACHMENT G

**PARKS AND RECREATION
DEPARTMENT**



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
"Creating Community Through People, Parks and Programs"

Russ Guiney, Director

August 14, 2006

TO: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Russ Guiney *Russ Guiney*
Director

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-2006
LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRAND JURY**

As requested, attached is this Department's responses to the Grand Jury's Final Report, 2005-2006. We are happy to report that many of the recommendations submitted have been covered by existing funding and are either complete or near completion.

If you require further information, your staff may contact Tracy Franklin of my staff at (213) 738-3040.

RG:TF:tf

c: Vincent Amerson, Chief Administrative Office
Kaye Michelson, Parks and Recreation
Sabra White, Parks and Recreation
Tracy Franklin, Parks and Recreation

Attachment (1)

(#06-074)

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – PARKS AND RECREATION

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
DISABLED ACCESS TO PERFORMING ARTS, VISUAL ARTS
FACILITIES AND COUNTY PARKS IN THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

Provide an electric cart at the Virginia Robinson Gardens with similar features and functions as the carts utilized at the Hollywood Bowl to transport patrons over difficult terrain while still in their wheelchairs.

RESPONSE

Funding to purchase an electric cart was granted on July 20, 2006 through the County of Los Angeles' ADA Extraordinary Maintenance Fund. The Department will investigate accessible cart availability and utilize the funds made available to purchase a cart that effectively eliminates the terrain barrier. Estimated time of purchase is October 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

John Anson Ford Theater - Install a TDD machine at the John Anson Ford Theatre.

RESPONSE

There is ADA money available at the Ford Theater. The Department will research equipment and estimates installation for October 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Arboretum - Provide a wheelchair lift at the Queen Anne Cottage and lessen the grade of the path of travel to the Carriage House at the County Arboretum.

RESPONSE

The wheelchair accessible lift has been installed and is currently operational at the Queen Anne Cottage.

The path of travel grade to the Carriage House has been corrected.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

Victoria Park - Upgrade the restrooms at Victoria Park to allow for disabled access.

RESPONSE

Restroom ADA upgrades funded under Deferred Maintenance and will be completed through a JOC contract. Estimated completion time is three to four months (approximately November 1, 2006).

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – PARKS AND RECREATION

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
COMMUNITY CENTERS IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY
NEIGHBORHOOD/REGIONAL PARKS

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

Apollo - There is no community center. Correct the public information flyer.

RESPONSE

This will be added to our "Unmet Needs" list for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and we will work with the Chief Administrative Office (CAO) to try to identify funding sources for construction of a community center.

Public information flyer will be updated, laminated, and placed back on display by August 10, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

Athens - The entire park and center needs refurbishing. The maintenance area should be fenced in.

RESPONSE

This Park was inadvertently omitted from the Deferred Maintenance funding request in 2005-06. The Department will need an additional \$338,000 included in Deferred Maintenance funding to address immediate issues. We will work with the CAO to identify funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

Bodger - The center needs painting.

RESPONSE

This has been funded through Deferred Maintenance. Materials are on order and completion is estimated for August 31, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 11

Charter Oak - A separate activity room is needed. Right now, everyone shares a gated courtyard.

RESPONSE

This will be added to our "Unmet Needs" list for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and we will work with the CAO to identify funding sources for a separate activity room.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14

Crescenta Valley - Community activities should be posted. The center was closed, and it looked like nothing was happening there at any time. The playground equipment is in need of repair.

RESPONSE

The park office is located at 3901 Dunsmore Avenue in La Crescenta. The park is staffed as follows:

Monday - Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Park hours and emergency phone numbers are displayed in the park office window for public viewing.

Playground swings were repaired and replaced on June 22, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15

Dalton - Build a larger activity room. The area now is too small, and the cabinets need replacing. The outside shelter needs painting.

RESPONSE

This will be added to our "Unmet Needs" list for Fiscal Year 2007-08 and we will work with the CAO to identify funding sources for construction of a larger activity room and replacement of the cabinets.

Painting of existing outside shelter is scheduled for completion June 15, 2007.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 16

Del Aire - Both the community center and the gym need painting. The restroom needs to be upgraded for handicapped accessibility. No fire sprinklers were seen in the community center.

RESPONSE

A budget adjustment in 2005-06 moved money into Deferred Maintenance to fund this facility (it was originally inadvertently omitted). Painting and ADA upgrades will be funded as part of the identified needs through a JOC contract. Completion is estimated to be within the next three to four months, by November 1, 2006.

We will work with the CAO to identify funding sources for fire sprinklers.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 19

Enterprise - The kitchen needs painting, and new cupboards are needed. The playground equipment is not up to standard.

RESPONSE

Kitchen painting and cabinet replacement is scheduled to be done through South Agency operational funds as part of the relocation of the Mobile Recreation staff for this park. Fabrication of cabinets and countertops is in progress and new appliances have been ordered. Completion is estimated for August 31, 2006.

We will work with the CAO to identify funding sources for playground equipment.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 29

Loma Alta - Keep the present activity building, along with the new gym, as many activities take place in this building.

RESPONSE

The activity building will remain open along with the new gym.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 30

Los Robles - There is no community center. Correct the public information flyer.

RESPONSE

This facility's community center is currently being utilized as the park office. We will add a new community center for this facility to our "Unmet Needs" list for Fiscal Year 2007-08. We will also work with the CAO to identify funding sources.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 32

Bethune - The kitchen needs upgrading. Gym tiles need replacing.

RESPONSE

We will add this to our "Unmet Needs" list for Fiscal Year 2007-08. We will also work with the CAO to identify funding sources including Quimby funds, if eligible. Review of the extent of work and estimated cost will be completed by August 31, 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 49

Victoria - The office/meeting room needs air conditioning. The kitchen needs painting. The restrooms need upgrading for handicapped accessibility.

RESPONSE

Restroom ADA upgrades are funded under Deferred Maintenance. The remaining items are funded through the operating budget.

The air conditioning and ADA upgrades will be completed through a JOC contract. Estimated completion time is three to four months (approximately November 1, 2006).

Estimated completion time for painting the kitchen is August 31, 2006.

ATTACHMENT H

PROBATION DEPARTMENT



ROBERT B. TAYLOR
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

9150 EAST IMPERIAL HIGHWAY — DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA 90242
(562) 940-2501



August 11, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Robert B. Taylor 
Chief Probation Officer

SUBJECT: **RESPONSE TO THE 2005-06 GRAND JURY'S FINAL REPORT**

As requested by the Chief Administrative Officer on July 13, 2006, attached is the Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury's recommendations contained in their 2005-06 Final Report.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Robert Smythe, Deputy Director, Administration at (562) 940-2516.

RT:rs

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Sachi Hamai, Executive Officer

(U:\GBYRNAUDIT\GJRESPMEMO)

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – PROBATION DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
JAILS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

The Probation Department audit juvenile facility security measures within the Department and institute necessary changes.

RESPONSE

The Department conducted a comprehensive juvenile facility security assessment and provided a report to your Board on May 19, 2006. Based on that assessment, the Department has requested, as part of our FY 2006-07 Unmet Needs Request, funding for security enhancements with a five-phase implementation plan including funding for a separate Security Office to manage the Department's security operations. The Department anticipates receiving funding this fiscal year for some of those security enhancements. In addition, as part of the Department of Justice's requirements, the Department has implemented stringent security requirements for all outside maintenance contractors to follow while at the camps and juvenile halls.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 18

The Probation Department should discover the cause of the hole on Eastlake's field and make necessary changes.

RESPONSE

The cause of the hole was discovered and repaired in June 2006.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 19

The Probation Department should enforce State Health and Safety regulations at Camp Afflerbaugh to correct the unsatisfactory conditions.

RESPONSE

Safe Serve Training has been implemented and will be conducted on an ongoing basis for the kitchen staff. To correct the problem with food backing up and creating an odor, a product called liquid live bacteria is being used in the kitchen drains to prevent this problem from re-occurring. The Department's Chief Cook and Food Services Consultant will monitor these issues semimonthly.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 20

The Probation Department should build an enclosed facility at Camp Holton with permanent electrical service to replace unsafe facility.

RESPONSE

The Department has requested the Internal Services Department to make an assessment and evaluate the feasibility of adding permanent electricity to the maintenance workshop and to provide the Department with options and cost estimates by the end of October 2006.

ATTACHMENT I

PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

County of Los Angeles
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

12860 CROSSROADS PARKWAY SOUTH • CITY OF INDUSTRY, CALIFORNIA 91746
Tel (562) 908-8400 • Fax (562) 908-0459



BRYCE YOKOMIZO
Director

LISA NUÑEZ
Chief Deputy



Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District
YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District
ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

August 23, 2006

TO: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Bryce Yokomizo, Director

**SUBJECT: ADDENDUM TO DPSS RESPONSE TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2005-2006
GRAND JURY REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CHILD
CARE FRAUD**

Attached is an addendum to our Department's response to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report and Recommendations addressing Child Care Fraud. We have also provided an electronic copy to Vincent Amerson of your staff.

Minor changes have been reflected in responses to Recommendations #1, 5 and 14.

If you have any questions, your staff may call Gail Dershewitz at (562) 908-5879.

BY:ic

Attachment

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES - DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICES

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
MILLIONS OF TAX DOLLARS LOST TO CHILD CARE FRAUD

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

There should be random and unannounced visits at least once every ninety days to the child care sites to verify the childrens' presence. This verification should be done either by DPSS or be required by the APPs in revised DPSS-APP contracts.

RESPONSE

DPSS agrees, however we have an alternative approach.

Currently, there are approximately 10,000 child care providers caring for children in the Stage 1 Child Care program. As recommended, the action will require 40,000 site visits per year which are workload intensive and not cost effective. The Department will explore the feasibility of piloting random provider site visits and evaluate their effectiveness.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

DPSS should require the Alternative Payment Provider's (APPs) to accept only original documents or copies that have been seen and annotated by DPSS.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

DPSS has completed contract negotiations with the APPs for the new Stage 1 Child Care contracts. The new contract language includes requirements that all photocopies created from original documents must be annotated, and the annotations must be followed by the applicable APP staff member's signature.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3

DPSS should require by incorporation in the APP contract daily parental sign-in and sign-out sheets.

RESPONSE

The Department disagrees with the application and offers an alternative approach.

DPSS' current operating procedures provide a viable alternative that is already in place. APP agencies in Los Angeles County presently use the Provider Payment Request (PPR) form that is signed under penalty of perjury by both the participant and provider to document a child's attendance at the provider's facility. This form accomplishes the same function as the proposed sign-in/sign-out sheet.

Implementation of the recommendation would require a change in State regulations for Stage 1 child care which are beyond the control of Los Angeles County. State regulations do not presently require parents to sign their children in and out of child care provider sites.

The Department will randomly monitor the use of the PPR form to determine if the requirement is being enforced.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4

DPSS should ensure by monthly file reviews that signatures on signature cards in files match the signatures of the parent and child care provider. The Auditor-Controller and contracts department of DPSS must also have access to these records for audits. These requirements must also be included in the APP contract.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

DPSS has completed contract discussions with the APPs and developed new contracts with language that includes requirements that signatures on signature cards in files must be reviewed to verify that the signatures match the signatures of the parent and child care provider.

Currently, both DPSS and APP staff review participant and provider signatures in the normal case review and processing procedures. APP staff also looks at signatures when the providers' monthly invoices are processed.

The Department will issue reinforced procedural guidelines instructing staff to review and ensure that signatures match. We will also work with the APPs to ensure that the Auditor-Controller and the DPSS Contract Management Division have access to signature card files.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5

DPSS should review the DPSS-APP contracts and agreements to ensure that child health and safety requirements are addressed by both the APPs and child care providers.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees, as the DPSS-APP Stage 1 contracts already address child care health and safety requirements.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6

Each step of the DPSS process should be verified, and APP contracts and files should be monitored: to prevent paying for child care not provided, to ensure that parents are eligible for child care support, to eliminate double billing, and to ensure that documentation required by the contract is in place through random reviews of APP files. DPSS has the primary responsibility for verification and should request assistance as needed from the Auditor-Controller, District Attorney and Chief Administrative Office.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

The Department monitors each APP agency quarterly, using a random sampling methodology. In addition, DPSS and the District Attorney currently coordinate efforts to detect, prevent and prosecute all welfare fraud.

The Department will enhance existing APP monitoring tools to ensure that stronger controls are in place. We will also continue our collaboration with the District Attorney to detect, prevent and prosecute all welfare fraud. The Department will also explore the availability of assistance from the Auditor-Controller and Chief Administrative Office in our welfare fraud prevention efforts.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 7

Marketing of the APP CalWORKs child care outreach program should be regularly evaluated by DPSS to determine its effectiveness.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

The APPs currently inform DPSS of the medium used in outreach and provide verification of outreach activities.

The Department will include a contract monitoring tool question that addresses the effectiveness of the CalWORKs child care outreach program. We will also work with the APPs to design and develop a plan with indicators to measure outreach efforts.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8

DPSS should designate staff and provide a contact phone number for the APPs to call for case information when the GEARS data system is down and circulate a memo to all APPs with this information. DPSS should ensure that participant data is entered into the GEARS system daily.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

Protocols and procedures already exist, and an updated list will be provided to the APP agencies.

In addition, departmental policy requires that participant information is input into GEARS daily and is being monitored.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9

Any changes in attendance should be entered daily on the GEARS system by DPSS to eliminate overpayment.

RESPONSE

The Department disagrees.

It is not feasible for DPSS staff to know about a participant's employment, job training or school attendance on a daily basis. To the extent that DPSS is aware of or learns about changes in attendance, DPSS policy requires that GEARS system is updated with participant information within one work day of receiving the data.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10

The school or the training site should send to DPSS monthly attendance verification based on records which are retained by the school or training site and made available to county auditors.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees, as appropriate procedures are already in place.

DPSS currently verifies participant attendance at school or training, however this is completed on a quarterly basis. APP agencies may request verification more frequently, if needed, to certify child care eligibility.

The Department will collaborate with the APP agencies regarding monthly verification monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 11

Any changes in the parent's schedule that would affect child care hours should be reported monthly instead of quarterly and verified by DPSS to eliminate overpayment for child care. This monthly report and the record of its verification should also be available to county auditors.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees, as the procedure is already in place and is being monitored.

Child care is available to participants who participate in County-approved Welfare-to-Work activities or employment. If the participant consistently maintains a set schedule, the APPs may confirm this information by contacting either the participant's employer, the school or training site to independently collect and verify this information.

The Department will work with APP agencies to reinforce parental reporting and APP monitoring responsibilities.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12

DPSS should require that all forms are signed under penalty of perjury.

RESPONSE

The Department disagrees.

It is unreasonable for participants to sign *all* DPSS forms "under penalty of perjury." It is reasonable for participants to sign *select* DPSS forms "under penalty of perjury" that attest to any factual information which participants provide to the Department to support their eligibility for any Department-administered programs. Some forms are simply signed stating that the participant understands specified information and does not attest to any factual information that the participant is providing to the Department.

The Department will review all applicable forms in consultation with County Counsel to determine if any additional forms should include the "under penalty of perjury" statement.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13

DPSS should develop and implement an enhanced welfare fraud detection and investigation training program for employees in the Welfare Fraud Prevention Section in conjunction with the Los Angeles County District Attorney and receive periodic State and local training. Personnel trained and employed by this program should be compensated commensurate with their increased responsibilities.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

The Department currently provides welfare fraud detection and investigation training for Welfare Fraud Prevention & Investigations (WFP&I) Section staff and will work in conjunction with the District Attorney and State Fraud Bureau to implement an enhanced welfare fraud detection and investigation existing training curriculum for WFP&I Section staff. As the salary and compensation for this staff is a negotiated issue that is part of the current labor negotiations, the Department will consult with the CAO Employee Relations Divisions to assess compensation issues related to this group of employees.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14

If the parent is working for cash or for relatives, the payer should sign, under penalty of perjury, certifying the hours, the amount paid, and the work accomplished. A cross check between child care provider services and IHSS services, requiring copies of tax returns, and random field checks at the employment location should be mandatory. DPSS should eliminate child care allowance if employment legitimacy cannot be determined.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

The Department is evaluating computer matches between IHSS participants and child care providers and is providing enhancements to the requirement for Verification of Employment. The computer matches are especially useful for cross-checking records of IHSS participants who care for the children of their IHSS caregivers during the same hours when the IHSS and child care are being provided.

DPSS is also currently evaluating the process of flagging high risk/error prone child care cases with possible indicators such as a high number of hours of child care authorized per day/week/month and following-up on these cases

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15

Any paid child care in excess of ten hours per day for 5 days per week or 12 hours per day for 4 days per week should be monitored and verified on site by DPSS.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

DPSS will explore flagging cases that appear to be high risk, such as cases with a high number of daily child care hours, for the purposes of monitoring and verifying. We do recognize however, that current State Stage 1 Child Care regulations do not place limits on the number of hours per day/week/month that child care may be authorized. Additionally, it is not uncommon for Welfare-to-Work participants to be encouraged to pursue work full time and attend school simultaneously to achieve self-sufficiency.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 16

Trustline Registry Form background check must be approved and received by DPSS prior to any authorization for child care (including License-exempt and Trustline Exempt). DPSS should work with the State to expedite the Trustline Registry Form.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

Implementation however, requires a change in State regulations for Stage 1 Child Care which is beyond the control of Los Angeles County at the present time. Currently proposed/pending legislation, AB 1601, authored by Assembly Member Laird, may put this process in place if the bill is passed by the Legislature.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 17

The definition of "own children" should be limited to only the biological or legally adopted children of the child care provider. A limit should be placed on the number of children cared for by one child care provider, based on the capacity of the provider and the site, to provide safe and healthy child care.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

Implementation however, requires a change in State regulations for Stage 1 Child Care which is beyond the control of Los Angeles County. We are, therefore, unable to comply with the recommendation at the present time.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 18

Contract agency employees should be required by DPSS to undergo the same background checks required of DPSS employees in the same job category.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees.

The current GAIN Case Management Services contract contains provisions requiring that contract workers undergo and pass the same type of background checks required of DPSS employees in the same category

ATTACHMENT J

PUBLIC WORKS



DONALD L. WOLFE, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

900 SOUTH FREMONT AVENUE
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91803-1331
Telephone: (626) 458-5100
www.ladpw.org

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P.O. BOX 1460
ALHAMBRA, CALIFORNIA 91802-1460

IN REPLY PLEASE
REFER TO FILE. A-0

July 25, 2006

TO: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

FROM: Donald L. Wolfe *DLW*
Director of Public Works

**RESPONSE TO GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS/SANITATION DISTRICTS
2005-06 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
RECYLCED WATER SECTION**

We have reviewed the Grand Jury's final report on recycled water, and our comments to their recommendations are noted below.

Recommendation No. 1

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County should convene a summit of experts in the field of recycled water, along with the appropriate regulatory agencies, to review current regulations or recycled water for non-potable uses and make recommendations to the Board regarding policies that would increase and/or mandate the ability to implement the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.

Response

Our Board, on May 23, 2006, established a Task Force to address this recommendation. This Task Force is comprised of the above-noted agencies, along with other stakeholders, to assess the complex nature of issues regarding the development and use of recycled water. The Task Force is to provide recommendations to the Board of Supervisors by November 22, 2006.

David E. Janssen
July 25, 2006
Page 2

Recommendation No. 2

In addition to whatever information is now available to the public, a comprehensive educational curriculum should be established for public schools, institutions of higher learning, and community interest groups to incorporate recycled water education, thereby changing the public perception and acceptance of recycled water.

Response

There may be opportunities for the Board of Supervisors to support educational programs that will advance the acceptance of recycled water. It is our understanding that local agencies such as the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the West Basin Municipal Water District currently have developed such programs. It is the intent of the Recycled Water Task Force to address this issue in a comprehensive manner and report to the Board as part of their recommendations.

If you need further information on these two recommendations, please contact me or Assistant Director, Dean Efstathiou, at (626) 458-4010. Mr. Efstathiou is the Chair of the Water Recycling Task Force. David Dijkstra of your office is a member of the Task Force.

DDE:plg
GRAND JURY REPORT

cc: David Dijkstra
County Sanitation Districts (Jim Stahl)

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND
SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES
COUNTY

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
RECYCLED WATER SECTION

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County should convene a summit of experts in the field of recycled water, along with the appropriate regulatory agencies, to review current regulations or recycled water for non-potable uses and make recommendations to the Board regarding policies that would increase and/or mandate the ability to implement the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County.

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RECOMMENDATION NO. 2

In addition to whatever information is now available to the public, a comprehensive educational curriculum should be established for public schools, institutions of higher learning, and community interest groups to incorporate recycled water education, thereby changing the public perception and acceptance of recycled water.

RESPONSE

There may be opportunities for the Board of Supervisors to support educational programs that will advance the acceptance of recycled water. It is our understanding that local agencies such as the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County and the West Basin Municipal Water District currently have developed such programs. It is the intent of the Recycled Water Task Force to address this issue in a comprehensive manner and report to the Board as part of their recommendations.

ATTACHMENT K

SANITATION DISTRICTS



COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICTS OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY

1955 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601-1400
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 4998, Whittier, CA 90607-4998
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www.lacsd.org

JAMES F. STAHL
Chief Engineer and General Manager

August 10, 2006

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- Walnut
- West Covina
- West Hollywood
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The Presiding Judge
Los Angeles County Superior Court
111 North Hill Street
Mosk Courthouse, Room 204
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Judge:

Response to the Final Report of the 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury, Recommendations for Recycled Water

On behalf of the County Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County (Districts), and in my position as Chief Engineer and General Manager of the Districts, I am submitting this response to the Final Report of the 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury), pursuant to Section 933(c) of the California Penal Code, regarding recommendations for recycled water. At the August 9, 2006, Board meeting the District No. 2 Board of Directors, the administrative body for all 24 Districts, took action to authorize this written response. In the subject report, the Grand Jury recommends that the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works, and the Districts, along with the appropriate regulatory agencies, should convene a summit of experts in the field of recycled water. The intent of the summit would be to review current regulations for recycled water for non-potable uses and make recommendations to the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors regarding policies that would increase and/or mandate the ability to implement the use of recycled water within Los Angeles County. The Grand Jury further recommends that, in addition to whatever information is now available to the public, a comprehensive educational curriculum should be established for public schools, institutions of higher learning, and community interest groups to incorporate recycled water education, thereby changing the public perception and acceptance of recycled water.

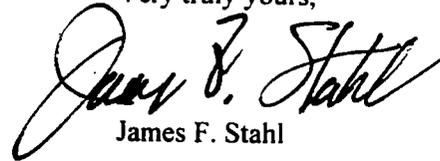
As the Grand Jury Final Report notes, the Districts operate a robust water recycling program, producing over 200,000 acre-feet per year of recycled water suitable for reuse. In fiscal year 2004-2005, 68,000 acre-feet of recycled water produced by the Districts were used at over five hundred locations, supplementing scarce local and imported water supplies. We concur with the recommendation to convene a summit on recycled water. To this end, the Districts are participating on the County Recycled Water Task Force convened by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works to make recommendations to increase the use of recycled water in the county.

Furthermore, the Districts have always been leaders in promoting the use of recycled water. Since the 1970s we have had a speakers bureau program to provide information to the community on recycled water, and have provided tours of our water reclamation facilities. We currently have a number of educational programs in place, including the Think Earth Program (a cooperative program sponsored by agencies, companies and organizations throughout southern California providing curriculum materials to grades K-8), the Sewer Science Program (a five to seven day wastewater treatment laboratory for high school students in which they produce recycled water, learn about its uses, and engage in discussions related to its use and value), a free bus program to facilitate class visits to our facilities (along with an appropriate teacher's guide to use before and after tours that features a classroom lesson on recycled water), a career program with Los Angeles Trade Technical College, and public tours of our water reclamation plants. We have enclosed for your information a copy of the Districts' brochure, "Water Recycling—Just Doing

What Comes Naturally," which is used as part of our public outreach programs. We consider recycled water education to be an important aspect of these programs, and plan to continue to periodically evaluate and strengthen our educational programs to best serve the community, as well as participate in interagency efforts that may be developed to expand the reach of recycled water education.

We appreciate this opportunity to provide information on the Districts' recycled water program. If you have any questions about this letter or would like further information, please feel free to contact Ann Heil at 562/908-4288, extension 2803, or aheil@lacsds.org.

Very truly yours,



James F. Stahl

JS:RH:ATH:ds

cc: Los Angeles County,
Chief Administrative Officer

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ATTACHMENT L

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

County of Los Angeles
Sheriff's Department Headquarters
4700 Ramona Boulevard
Monterey Park, California 91754-2169



August 11, 2006

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RESPONSE TO THE FINAL REPORT OF THE 2005-2006
LOS ANGELES COUNTY GRAND JURY**

Attached is the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's (Department) response to the 2005-2006 Grand Jury Report's recommendations (Attachment B). The Grand Jury areas of interest specific to the Department include the Jails Committee and Emergency Communication sections of the report.

Should you have questions regarding our response, please contact Commander Roberta Abner, of my office, at (323) 526-5000.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Leroy D. Baca".

LEROY D. BACA
SHERIFF

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION, ARE WE READY?

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 (Technical Services Division)

The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles Police Department should ensure the completion of Phase II of the Los Angeles Regional Tactical Communication System (LARTCS).

RESPONSE

The Department has been diligent in ensuring LARTCS interoperability. Phase II has seen the hiring of a consultant to perform a variety of tasks that will enable a bid and construction of the shared channels. January 2008 is an estimated target date for the completion of the shared channel build-out. Channels will become operational before the targeted completion date. Urban Area Strategic Initiative (UASI) grant funds for 2006-2007 have been obtained to expand the gateway portion of LARTCS into Northern Los Angeles County. This expansion should be completed by January 2008.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 10 (Emergency Operations Bureau)

The Los Angeles County Fire Department Chief (LACFD), Los Angeles Fire Department Chief (LAFD), Los Angeles Police Department Chief (LAPD) and the Department should continue to pursue the adoption of promising communication technology.

RESPONSE

The Department agrees completely with the recommendation of the Civil Grand Jury and is actively pursuing interoperable communications with the agencies mentioned. The current Homeland Security Grant process demands regional projects which benefit the operational area and not a specific agency or department. Communications technology projects are at the forefront of these regional efforts. Along with the Los Angeles Regional Common Operational Picture Program (LARCOPP) project mentioned in the Grand Jury audit, there are additional communications projects being considered utilizing Command and Control Personal Computer (C2PC) Programs and Future Concepts technology.

Additionally, there are other proposals to link communications not only to the agencies recommended in the Grand Jury Audit, but also to other independent municipal fire and police agencies within Los Angeles County. These grant funded proposals have been supported by all of the agencies mentioned in Recommendation No.10.

Aside from grant funding, the Department has authorized the expenditure of \$2.5 million to explore the feasibility of data, voice and computer aided dispatch interoperability among all cities within Los Angeles County. This technology would eliminate issues with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as to bandwidth constraints and allow full utilization of computerized communication systems in police stations, fire stations, and in emergency vehicles.

The Department is fully committed to the exploration of communications technology and is aggressively pursuing implementation.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 (Technical Services Division)

When the Los Angeles City and County purchases new communication equipment, bid documents should require suppliers to offer maintenance, parts, training, and related services throughout the life of the system.

RESPONSE

In September 2000 the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with RCC Consultants Inc. (RCC) to study the feasibility of developing a Consolidated Fire/Sheriff/Office of Public Safety (CFSOPS) radio system. The study was needed because both the Fire Department and the Department's radio systems were aging, and the FCC had mandated that both departments change to accommodate a more efficient use of the radio frequency spectrum. System replacements are needed to address the aging infrastructure of the system as well as to meet the FCC mandate.

On November 29, 2005, the Board approved an agreement with RCC to develop a technical scope of work and evaluation tools for a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the CFSOPS project. This RFP is scheduled to be released in April 2007.

Additionally, RCC has completed a study funded by the City and County of Los Angeles with participation and input provided by the Contract Cities Association. This study focused on the feasibility of developing a regional communication (voice and data) system. The concept is similar to the County's CFSCS radio system project except that it would involve the majority of public safety agencies within the geographical boundaries of the County of Los Angeles. The Department, LAPD, LAFD, LACFD, many other law enforcement and fire agencies, along with Internal Services Department (ISD) are participating in the study. The Regional Interoperability Steering Committee (RISC) oversees the overall effort and has appointed separate committees to manage the technical, governance, finance, and legislative portions of the effort.

RESPONSE TO THE GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – LOS ANGELES COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

SUBJECT: 2005-2006 GRAND JURY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
JAILS COMMITTEE

RECOMMENDATION NO. 1 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan for jail housing and security to reduce overcrowded jail facilities.

RESPONSE

A Jail Housing and Security Plan was developed to address security, housing, and population issues within the jails. The plan contains eight phases. Four phases have already been completed and the remaining phases are in the process of being logistically implemented. To reduce the issues of overcrowding, the Department has implemented a plan to re-open Sybil Brand Institute (SBI) and build an additional female facility at Pitchess Detention Center (PDC). This will allow the transfer of all female inmates from the Century Regional Detention Facility (CRDF) to SBI and PDC, allowing the Department to populate the high-security beds at CRDF with male inmates.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 2 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Grand Jury recommends that the trusty sleeping area at Men's Central Jail be divided into three rooms for three shifts of sleeping.

RESPONSE

The design of Men's Central Jail will not allow for the flexibility to separate the inmate workers sleeping area into three sections for the three different work shifts. Men's Central Jail is not opposed to the idea; however, the physical layout of the trusty sleeping area will not allow the recommendation to be instituted.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 3 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Grand Jury recommends the continued use of trustees, as appropriate, within the jails of Los Angeles County.

RESPONSE

The Department continues to utilize inmate workers in many different areas of the jail system. However, the number of low security level inmates who meet the criteria to become a trusty is small due to a rise in the high security and felony inmate population throughout the jail system.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 4 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFI) tags or other appropriate methods to track prisoners within the County jails as recommended in the Sheriff's plan.

RESPONSE

The Department is reviewing the issues associated with RFI, and is working to overcome any technical problems prior to its implementation. Additionally, the Department has established a new unit within the jails to research, develop, and implement systems to find solutions regarding inmate tracking issues at all jail facilities. These systems currently include the RFI Tags, and the Defendant Inmate Management System (DIMS), a court monitoring system.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 5 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that part of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan to expand jail facilities in the County as well as its plan to move inmates to facilities more appropriate to the level of their crimes.

RESPONSE

This plan is currently being implemented. Female inmates that were housed in Tower Two of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility were relocated to the Century Regional Detention Facility. The Twin Towers Correctional Facility is now being used as a high security level facility for male inmates, housing the inmates previously held at Men's Central Jail and the North County Correctional Facility. This decreased the inmate population at Men's Central Jail. A plan to re-implement Century Regional Detention Facility as a high security level male facility includes the re-opening of Sybil Brand Institute for female inmates and building a new female jail facility at the Pitchess Detention Center. The Department also plans to reduce crowding by canceling the Pitchess Detention Center contract with the State, transferring 1,292 inmates to the State's prisons. The Department is also preparing to expand the use of alternative incarceration programs, such as work furlough programs and electronic monitoring.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 6 (Custody Division)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopt that portion of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan to implement telemedicine programs in the county jail system.

RESPONSE

The Telemedicine Program in the County jail system has a proposed pilot date set for middle to late August 2006, pending the necessary training from the telemedicine vendors.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 8 (Administrative Services Division-Personnel)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors implement the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department plan for employee hiring retention program.

RESPONSE

On September 19, 2005, the Department responded to the Board's motion regarding a plan to fill critical personnel shortages. The Department implemented a restoration plan that included multi-year staffing projections for custody, unincorporated area patrol, community policing and detective services.

In December 2005 a goal to hire 1,000 deputy sheriffs per year was established. The Department has maximized their academy class schedule and is currently holding classes at the STARS Center in Whittier, the College of the Canyons in Valencia, with planned classes in the Antelope Valley beginning November 2006.

For the past several months, the Department has consistently maintained up to 1,300 candidates in the background investigation process and filled each academy class with the maximum number of recruits.

In order to make the deputy sheriff testing more convenient for applicants, the Department increased their testing from three days a week to six days a week. In addition to this, the Department also conducts off-site testing, which brings the testing process into the local areas. Since July 2005 the Department has conducted 27 off-site tests.

The Department has also taken part in a multi-agency workgroup that was established, at the Board's request, to evaluate bottlenecks to further improve the hiring process. The workgroup has met on several occasions and has been very successful in analyzing current hiring procedures and retention issues. Subsequent to the workgroup's full review, the workgroup will be presenting to the Board recommendations to further enhance staffing in the areas of training and polygraph examinations, along with

a number of non-monetary ideas that should further increase the Department's hiring capability.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 9 (Field Operations Region III)

The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends the Department correct deficiencies in the sobering cells at the Walnut Sheriff's Station and Lakewood Sheriff's Station. The 2005-2006 Los Angeles County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Los Angeles Police Department correct the deficiency in the sobering cells at the Southwest and Southeast Division Police Stations.

RESPONSE

The Department is currently receiving a bid from Marathon Engineering Corporation (MEC), a corporation that specializes in the manufacturing of sober cells. The Department has submitted a requisition to Internal Services Division (ISD) for approval of MEC to complete the modifications to both the Walnut and the Lakewood Sheriff Station's sobering cells. It is anticipated that the completion of both sobering cells should take place within the next three to four months.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 12 (Court Services Division)

The Department should place gratings over the light fixtures in the holding area of Beverly Hills Court. The facility needs painting.

RESPONSE

Gratings were placed over light fixtures in November 2005. The peeling paint has been removed and a requisition has been submitted to ISD for painting. There is no anticipated time frame for the completion of the painting.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 13 (Court Services Division)

The Department should address the safety issues in the Inglewood Juvenile Court.

RESPONSE

The Grand Jury was concerned about the non-contact interview area in the Inglewood Juvenile Court. The interview area has no glass between the interviewer and interviewee.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department has been given a copy of the report and informed of the Grand Jury's concerns. Representatives of the Probation Department said they would take it under advisement.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 14 (Court Services Division)

The Department should provide an override switch on the elevator controls for the Downey Courthouse and repaint the cell area.

RESPONSE

The elevators at the Downey Courthouse are currently equipped with key activated override switches. Keys have been issued to the court staff, giving personnel the ability to override elevators in an emergency. The cell area was painted approximately two years ago with an anti-graffiti textured paint coating. The cells are routinely steamed cleaned once a month.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 15 (Field Operations Region III)

The Department must repair the lighting in the cell area of the City of Industry Station. The cell area must be maintained in a clean condition.

RESPONSE

Because the report does not specify which cell(s) were commented upon, an inspection of the entire jail facility was completed. The inspection found the lighting throughout the jail was in good working condition, that all the bulbs were functioning, and the cell areas were clean and in good repair.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 16 (Court Services Division)

The Department should immediately repair the floor in the LAX Courthouse.

RESPONSE

The coating on the floor in high-traffic areas was peeling. The coating was subsequently repaired, eliminating the hazard.

RECOMMENDATION NO. 17 (Field Operations Region II)

The Department should close the Lennox Station and replace it with a larger and more secure facility.

RESPONSE

Plans for the new "Athens Station" are well underway. The architect has drawn plans and is awaiting the Sheriff's approval. The new station will be located at Imperial Highway and Normandie Avenue and will also house Probation and other County departments. The Department anticipates a start time in November 2007.