



COUNTY OF INYO

ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE

CLINT G. QUILTER
COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



August 11, 2020

The Honorable Brian Lamb
Presiding Judge, Inyo County Superior Court
Inyo County Courthouse
Independence, CA 93526

SUBJECT: 2019-2020 Grand Jury Report

Dear Judge Lamb:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, all County departments, and the County as a whole, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the 2019-2020 Grand Jury for their work in preparing the 2019-2020 Grand Jury Final Report.

As you're aware, in an unprecedented development, the COVID-19 outbreak prevented the jury from completing ongoing investigations during its term. As such, the Final Report covers only local detention facility inspections – and a response from the Board of Supervisors is not required. The Board nevertheless wants to convey to the Grand Jury its gratitude for the jurors' conscientious efforts and dedication. It is our hope that future grand juries are not similarly handicapped in their investigative capacity, so that they may continue to deliver constructive recommendations for improving agency responsiveness and the way our local governments function.

Again, on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I want to express the County's appreciation for the Grand Jury's efforts in promoting government accountability in its capacity as a representative of the citizens of Inyo County.

Sincerely,

Clint G. Quilter
County Administrator

cc: Inyo County Board of Supervisors

EL CAMINO SIERRA™

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ORIGINAL

2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury

Charles Tello
Lone Pine

Margaret Egan
Bishop

Amy Weurdig
Mustang Mesa

Kathleen Carmical
Aberdeen

Edmond Cote
Bishop

Harivanden Bhakta
Bishop

Derik Olson
Bishop

Kathryn Daniels
Bishop

FILED
JUN 24 2020
INYO CO. CLERK
KAMMI FOOTE, CLERK

SUMMARY

The challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic prevented the 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury from completing on-going investigations. This Jury encourages the public to communicate with the 2020-2021 Inyo County Grand Jury regarding any issues of importance.

The final report of the 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury follows.

DETENTION FACILITIES INSPECTIONS

Per California Penal Code 919(b), "The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county." California Grand Jury Association literature states that, "It is unclear whether this section refers to local jails or state-run facilities, but most grand juries conduct tours of jails and prisons."

The 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury conducted physical inspections of the following detention facilities located in Inyo County: the Inyo County Juvenile Detention Center, the Bishop Police Department, the Inyo County Jail, and the Owens Valley Conservation Camp. The Grand Jury performed each inspection in the company of professional facility personnel.

Inyo County Juvenile Detention Center

BACKGROUND

The Inyo County Juvenile Center is located near the Inyo County Jail in Independence, CA. "In 2016, the Probation Department, in collaboration with Inyo County Health and Human Services, initiated Juvenile Service Redesign due to juvenile delinquency declining both locally and statewide, and the declining population housed at the Inyo County Juvenile Center. Juvenile Service Redesign resulted in transitioning the Juvenile Center into a Special Purpose Juvenile Hall utilized for weekend commitments for youth found in violation of probation by the Court. Staff formerly employed at the Juvenile Center were transitioned into the community as Rehabilitation Specialists, where they provide programming to early intervention youth and youth on probation. Programming, in collaboration with Inyo County Health and Human Services and Inyo County schools, occurs primarily in Inyo County schools and at various locations throughout Inyo County ... Youth who are arrested and detained are generally held in either the El Dorado County Juvenile Hall in South Lake Tahoe, California, or the Kern County Juvenile Hall in Bakersfield, California."

<https://www.inyocounty.us/services/probation/probation-juvenile-division>

METHODOLOGY

Members of the 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury conducted a physical inspection of the Inyo County Juvenile Center on October 26, 2019.

Bishop Police Department

BACKGROUND

The Bishop Police Department (BPD) keeps order, ensures public safety, and enforces the laws in the City of Bishop, which encompasses 2.2 square miles. The BPD also responds to mutual aid requests from other law enforcement agencies, including the Bishop Paiute Tribal Police and other city, county, state and federal departments/agencies.

According to the current Bishop PD Policy Manual:

- "Any juvenile taken into custody shall be released to the care of the juvenile's parent or other responsible adult or transferred to a juvenile custody facility or to other authority as soon as practicable and in no event shall a juvenile be held beyond six hours from the time of his/her entry into the Bishop Police Department."
- "The Bishop Police Department is committed to releasing adults from temporary custody as soon as reasonably practicable, and to keeping adults safe while in temporary custody at the [Department/ Office]. Adults should be in temporary custody only for as long as reasonably necessary for investigation, processing, transfer or release."

https://www.cityofbishop.com/wp-content/uploads/RELEASE_20180629_T121526_Bishop_PD_Policy_Manual.pdf

METHODOLOGY

Members of the 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury conducted a physical inspection of the BPD facilities on November 6, 2019.

DISCUSSION

During the facility inspection, BPD staff informed Jurors of the following:

- All BPD officers wear a body camera while on duty.
- The BPD's K9 officer program has been suspended, but one of the department's goals is to reinstate it when possible.

Inyo County Jail

METHODOLOGY

Members of the Inyo County Grand Jury inspected the Inyo County Jail in Independence, CA, on November 15, 2019 and December 13, 2019.

DISCUSSION

During the facility inspection, Jail staff informed Jurors of the following:

- The Jail's Inmate Re-Entry Program assists inmates, upon release, with housing, education, vocational training, meals, and professional therapy including substance abuse counseling.
- The Jail's Control Panel, which previous Grand Juries have reported on*, had not been replaced at the time of this Jury's inspections.

** Inyo County Grand Jury Reports for the past twelve years are available on the website - <https://clerkrecorder.inyocounty.us/p/grand-jury-reports.html> - or by contacting the Inyo County Clerk Recorder's office.*

Owens Valley Conservation Camp #26

BACKGROUND

The Owens Valley Adult Conservation Fire Camp #26 is a minimum-security state prison in Bishop, California ... which the [California] Department of Corrections oversees. <https://department-of-corrections.org/owens-valley-adult-conservation-fire-camp-26-correctional-facility/>

Since January 1, 1982 the Owens Valley Conservation Camp (OVCC) has been operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in conjunction with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire). <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/facility-locator/conservation-camps/owens-valley/>

Inmates volunteer for assignment to a fire camp. In order to be selected for the OVCC, inmates must meet all requirements of the California Department of Corrections and CAL FIRE. They must have "minimum custody" status, or the lowest classification for inmates based on their sustained good behavior in prison. They must be physically fit and able to work at least eight hours a day. Not all inmates will fight fire, but those who want to be firefighters must successfully complete the four-week firefighting training course. <https://www.cdcr.ca.gov/facility-locator/conservation-camps/>

METHODOLOGY

Members of the 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury conducted a physical inspection of the OVCC facilities on December 6, 2019.

DISCUSSION

During the facility inspection, OVCC staff informed Jurors of the following:

- In addition to firefighting, vehicle maintenance, water treatment, food preparation and grounds-keeping are some of the skills inmates learn that may help them reenter the job market after release.
- Cerro Coso College works with inmates to further their education and earn their General Education Diploma (GED).
- While in constant training and preparedness for firefighting, inmates maintain the facility, prepare meals, and perform other duties. Additionally, supervised OVCC crews are available to assist with community service projects in Inyo and Mono Counties.

In the Rooms of the Board of Supervisors

County of Inyo, State of California

I, HEREBY CERTIFY, that at a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, held in their rooms at the County Administrative Center in Independence on the 11th day of August 2020 an order was duly made and entered as follows:

**CAO – Letter of
Gratitude for
Grand Jury
Service**

Moved by Supervisor Pucci and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to approve a letter to the Honorable Brian Lamb, Presiding Judge, Inyo County Superior Court, expressing gratitude for the 2019-2020 Grand Jury's service, and authorize the County Administrator to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Board this 11th
Day of August, 2020

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| CC Purchasing Personnel Auditor CAO: Other: DATE: August 13, 2020 |



CLINT G. QUILTER
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clint G. Quilter".

By: _____



County of Inyo



#16

County Administrator

DEPARTMENTAL - ACTION REQUIRED

MEETING: August 11, 2020

FROM: Clint Quilter

SUBJECT: Letter of Appreciation to 2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request Board approve a letter to the Honorable Brian Lamb, Presiding Judge, Inyo County Superior Court, expressing gratitude for the 2019-2020 Grand Jury's service, and authorize the County Administrator to sign.

SUMMARY/JUSTIFICATION:

The Inyo County Grand Jury has issued its 2019-2020 Grand Jury Final Report which was served on the County via email on June 19, 2020. Ordinarily, per state law, the Board of Supervisors would have 90 days from the date of service in which to respond to the jury's findings and recommendations. This year, however, the COVID-19 outbreak prevented the Grand Jury from completing ongoing investigations. As a result, the Final Report contains only summaries of the jury's local detention center inspections and no official findings or recommendations related to those inspections. Therefore, a response from the Board of Supervisors is not required.

Nevertheless, and in light of the unprecedented conditions in which the Grand Jury found itself operating, the County wishes to express its gratitude for their service and efforts on behalf of the citizens of Inyo County.

BACKGROUND/HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:

N/A

ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Board may direct revisions or edits to the letter, or decline to approve it. The latter option is not recommended, however.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

N/A

FINANCING:

There are no fiscal impacts to the County associated with the letter of appreciation.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter of Appreciation - Grand Jury

2. 2020 County of Inyo - Grand Jury Report - Final

APPROVALS:

Darcy Ellis
Marshall Rudolph
Clint Quilter

Created/Initiated - 8/4/2020
Approved - 8/4/2020
Final Approval - 8/4/2020