



October 1, 2019

The Honorable Jeanne E. Schechter
Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court of California, County of Merced
2260 N Street
Merced, CA 95340

RE: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' 2018-19 CIVIL GRAND JURY RESPONSE

Dear Judge Schechter:

The Merced County Board of Supervisors appreciates the Civil Grand Jury's responsibilities and commitment to public service. Pursuant to Penal Code 933, responses from elected and appointed officials have been received and appropriately forwarded. The following acknowledgements and information is respectfully submitted relating to matters under the jurisdiction of the Board of Supervisors.

Mandated Inspection – Jail Facilities

Recommendations/Findings:

This year's Civil Grand Jury toured the John Latorraca Correctional Center (JLCC) and noted that the facility is in an "advanced state of decay." The report also noted that the County received a \$40 million grant and matched \$5 million of funding to upgrade the facility, but no funds have been released to start work on the project and no funding sources have been identified to begin Phase II of the project.

The Civil Grand Jury Recommends increasing maintenance staff, putting the highest priority on completing grant requirements to begin the renovation work, and identifying funding sources for Phase II.

Response:

The Board of Supervisors agrees that parts of the JLCC are outdated and/or in poor condition. Merced County is continuing to work diligently with the State as we move closer to construction. Unfortunately, staffing shortfalls at various State agencies have slowed the progress of the project. The majority of jail reconstruction projects throughout California are experiencing similar issues—this is not unique to Merced. Because of the delays, we're now expecting to begin construction by early 2020. Merced County has completed its due diligence with the State and satisfied the grant requirements. This project remains a top priority for the Board of Supervisors, County Administration, and the Sheriff's Office.

Planned improvements will help address security and infrastructure concerns at

Board of Supervisors

Rodrigo Espinoza
Supervisor, District One

Lee Lor
Supervisor, District Two

Daron McDaniel
Supervisor, District Three

Lloyd Pareira
Supervisor, District Four

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