

ORIGINAL

2019-2020 Inyo County Grand Jury

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**INYO CO. CLERK
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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.