

**2018-2019 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury  
Stanislaus County Facility Tour and Election Polling Place Report  
Case 19-08GJ**

The 2018-2019 Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury (SCCGJ) conducted its annual detention facility inspections, as required by California Penal Code §919(b). The inspections included Stanislaus County Probation Department’s Juvenile Hall (JH), Juvenile Commitment Center (JCC), the Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Detention Center, Re-entry & Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training Facility (REACT), and Day Reporting Center (DRC).

SCCGJ conducted physical inspections of each facility between October 9, 2018 and February 12, 2019.

**GLOSSARY**

<b>BSCC</b>	Board of State and Community Corrections
<b>DRC</b>	Day Reporting Center
<b>JCC</b>	Juvenile Commitment Center
<b>JDF</b>	Juvenile Detention Facility
<b>JH</b>	Juvenile Hall
<b>REACT</b>	Re-Entry & Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training Facility
<b>SCCGJ</b>	Stanislaus County Civil Grand Jury
<b>SCSD</b>	Stanislaus County Sheriff’s Department
<b>SDC</b>	Sheriff’s Detention Center

**Stanislaus County Juvenile Detention Facilities (JDF)  
October 9, 2018**

SCCGJ toured both the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall (JH) and Stanislaus County Juvenile Commitment Center (JCC). Both facilities house youth who committed offenses prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. The JH was built in 1977 and houses up to 158 pre-adjudicated youth. The Maximum Security Unit was added in 2000, and Girls Unit was added in 2003. The JH provides a safe and secure environment for youth pending juvenile court appearances. The JCC was built in 2013 and houses up to 60 post-adjudicated youth. The goal of the JCC is to change the delinquent habits, attitudes, behaviors of youth and to guide them toward a more productive and pro-social lifestyle. Changes are accomplished through education, training, and counseling services.

Youth at the JDF are provided with a safe and secure environment. The facility appears to be adequately staffed with qualified, experienced personnel. The staff are engaged with the youth and are professional in their performance of duties. The youth receive education, counseling, and medical services. The facility is clean and well-maintained. The JCC kitchen prepares the food for the facility. Youth are provided a menu of varied nutritious items. The kitchen was very clean and can serve a population in excess of the capacity of the JCF. A vegetable garden and greenhouse have been added as a learning activity for the youth.

The Probation Department's monthly report to the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) for September 2018 reported the Average Daily Population for the JCF was 79 youth. Sixty-four youth were in the JH and fifteen youth were in the JCC. The Probation Department is seeking additional uses for the excess capacity. Currently a game room is available as a reward to youth who have demonstrated positive behavior.

**Re-Entry & Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training Facility (REACT)  
November 13, 2018**

The Re-Entry & Enhanced Alternatives to Custody Training Facility (REACT) opened May 21, 2018 and houses low-risk adult offenders. Inmates in REACT have the opportunity to participate in programming that will prepare them for successful re-entry into the community. A total of 42 educational and treatment programs have been developed for inmates and are available on a rotating basis. On the day SCCGJ toured REACT 145 inmates were housed in the facility. The housing capacity of the facility is 292 inmates; however, the current population is limited due to lack of staff. Inmate visitations are currently conducted by video.

**Day Reporting Center (DRC)  
February 12, 2019**

The Day Reporting Center (DRC) offers a wide variety of services to adult offenders under the jurisdiction of the Stanislaus County Probation Department. The overall goal of the facility is to reduce the likelihood of recidivism. The facility is operated in partnership with the probation department, sheriff's department, Behavioral Health and Recovery Services (BHRS), and Community Services Agency (CSA). The DRC provides classes in life skills, domestic violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, GED preparation, computer skills, and employment searching. Some of the course providers include Sierra Vista, Learning Quest, LCA Leadership, and Nirvana.

Upon arrival at the DRC participants are screened for sobriety and appropriate attire. Individuals who are intoxicated or wearing gang clothing are not allowed to participate in programming for that day. DRC does not charge participants for classes.

**Sheriff's Detention Center, East (SDC)  
February 12, 2019**

SDC is a state-of-the-art facility providing safe and secure housing for individuals detained in Stanislaus County. SDC is a new addition to the Sheriff's detention facility with a capacity of approximately 500 inmates. SDC has a comprehensive medical clinic that will limit the need to transport inmates for outside medical services. SDC operates a mental health housing unit and a mental competency program to assess inmates' trial readiness. The central kitchen prepares the food for all of the Sheriff's detention facilities. As with other facilities inmate visitations are currently conducted by video.

**Election Observations – November 6, 2018**

SCCGJ made November 6, 2018 election day precinct visits at approximately two dozen polling places plus the registrar's office in downtown Modesto. Jurors intentionally selected many smaller rural polling places that might be overlooked or inconveniently located for observers. Each visitation was approximately thirty minutes duration. Overall the polling places appeared well organized with friendly, professional-acting poll workers/volunteers.

General observations:

- Most signage was posted in both English and Spanish with a few exceptions
- Voting instructions were in English only
- Translator available but one did not show up for work that day leaving non-English speakers to rely on their own resources
- Automark available but set in "off" mode or lacked a cartridge at some sites
- Voter turnout was steady and heavier than expected
- Steady stream of mail-in ballots were dropped off
- Procedure for handling provisional ballots seemed to cause confusion among workers
- Some sites ran out of provisional ballots

Specific to Registrar's office:

- Exceptionally long line for provisional voters up to ninety minute wait
- Strict adherence to Observer Panel Procedures and Rules
- Signature verification of vote-by-mail ballots performed by volunteers who lacked formal training
- Large number of ballots delivered to Clerk-Recorder's office via "ballot harvesting"
- Ballot harvesting, a term applied to people who collect others' filled out absentee ballots and turn them in to election officials, is legal in California

Reports issued by the Grand Jury do not identify individuals interviewed. Penal Code section 929 requires that reports of the Grand Jury not contain the name of any person or facts leading to the identity of any person who provides information to the Grand Jury.
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