



# COUNTY OF DEL NORTE

## Office of the Sheriff - Coroner

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DEAN WILSON  
Sheriff – Coroner

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TIM ATHEY  
Operations Commander

BILL STEVEN  
Corrections Commander

### Response to Grand Jury Report 2012-2013

### Del Norte County Sheriff's Office Recommendations

October 24, 2013

#### **R6. There is a need for a female officer on each shift.**

I agree with the Grand Jury as to the preference of having a female officer on each shift working within the jail to deal with female inmates. We attempt to hire the most qualified applicants to fill the needs of the jail, but have been limited by the choice of those who apply. Many times females do not apply for the job of Correctional Officer. Our hopes will be to meet this recommendation when we have enough females on staff.

#### **R11. General maintenance by the County is needed, as exemplified by the ceiling tiles that have been missing for years, peeling paint in the kitchen and broken windows in D tank.**

As maintenance is handled outside of our office and is handled through the county maintenance department we do not have control of the funding assigned to these issues. We work with them to deal with matters of security and safety. We use jail staff and inmate labor to deal with most of the cleaning and painting done inside the jail. I would like to see ceiling tiles replaced and more painting done on a regular basis.

#### **R12. We feel there is a need for a safety cell for the safety of the inmates and officers, acknowledging that it will create additional budgetary and management issues.**

We do not currently have the money or the space to accommodate this needed cell within our jail. We have applied for state funding through the SB 1022 program and, if accepted, we will be building a new booking/ holding area that will include two safety cells.

#### **R13. Cameras should be placed in the holding cells and in more efficient areas in the general population, as there are blind spots not viewable.**

We are working with county technology department to determine the costs associated with extending our security camera and storage capacity. We have also included these costs within our SB 1022 grant. If the grant does not come through we will look to utilize funds available to us throughout the current fiscal year (2013-2014).

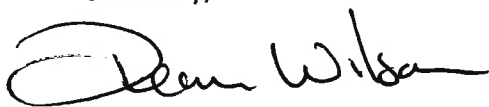
**R14. There is an absolute need for additional washers and dryers in the laundry facility.**

I have attempted to deal with this issue for the past ten years, but we have been unable to get the additional washer and dryer. We have included this within our plans with the SB 1022 funding proposal. My hope is that we are accepted and can move forward with many of these recommended changes.

**SUMMARY**

Most of the recommendations coming from the Grand Jury report center upon money related issues. Over the years we have an ever increasing cost to the operation of the jail with limited funds, and as such some things that are needed just do not get done. Recent changes through AB 109 cause county jails to absorb inmates that previously would have served time in state prisons, and are now doing time in our jails which has placed a greater burden on the job we do. We need to meet the needs of these inmates with medical, mental health, programing, and security. I hope the SB 1022 funding comes through as it will help address many of these issues, otherwise it will be left to the limited funding we currently have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dean Wilson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Dean" and last name "Wilson" clearly legible.

Dean Wilson, Sheriff-Coroner

Del Norte County