



Board of State and Community Corrections
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GOVERNOR Edmund G. Brown Jr.
CHAIR Linda M. Penner
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Kathleen T. Howard

October 30, 2013

Phil Wowak, Sheriff-Coroner
Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office
701 Ocean Street Room 340
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Sheriff Wowak:

2012-2014 BIENNIAL INSPECTION – RESPONSE TO CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

On March 12-13, 2013 Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) staff conducted the 2012-2014 biennial inspection of the Santa Cruz County Jails pursuant to Penal Code Section 6031 for compliance with the Minimum Standards for Local Detention Facilities as outlined in Titles 15 and 24, California Code of Regulations. As a result of the inspection, your agency was found out of compliance with Title 15, California Code of Regulations, Section 1027 – Number of Personnel.

During the inspection our examination of inmate safety check documentation at the Main Jail revealed two issues. The first being documented checks significantly beyond the hourly requirement. The second issue was with the *Guard 1 Plus* itself for recording documented checks. It was noted that in housing area B documentation was absent on the report for significant time periods leading to the conclusion that the Guard system itself was faulty.

A Corrective Action Plan was developed, whereby your management staff would reiterate with line personnel the importance of timely inmate safety checks. In addition, staff would research the missing documentation issue and resolve it with either pen and paper documentation or repair of the system itself. We requested a 60-day corrective action response. On August 2, 2013 we received the corrective action response with an invitation to return to re-inspect safety check documentation.

On October 16, 2013, we took the opportunity to visit the jail to re-examine safety check documentation. I am pleased to inform you that the documentation of hourly safety checks was much improved and the issue of absent checks in Housing Unit B has been resolved. While improvement is still needed, the safety check documentation that we examined does not rise to the level of non-compliance. As a result, we have updated our records to indicate compliance Title 15, Section 1027.

Phil Wowak
Sheriff
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We want to thank all staff involved in the process to correct the non-compliant issue. We especially thank Lieutenant James Skillicorn for his diligence in working with your staff and keeping us informed of the progress being made toward compliance.

If you should have any questions, please contact me at (916) 445-1322 or email at ron.bertrand@bscc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

RONALD L. BERTRAND
Field Representative
Facilities Standards and Operations Division

cc: County Administrative Officer, County of Santa Cruz
Chair, Board of Supervisors, County of Santa Cruz
Presiding Judge, Superior Court, County of Santa Cruz
Grand Jury Foreperson, Superior Court, County of Santa Cruz
Chief Deputy Jeremy Verinsky, Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office