

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

"Protection, Service & Accountability"

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James E. Salio
Chief Probation Officer

TO: Geoff O'Quest, Administrative Analyst

FROM: Jim Salio, Chief Probation Officer 

SUBJECT: **Response to 2011/2012 Grand Jury Report**

DATE: May 24, 2012

The 2011-2012 Grand Jury report on the County Jail, Juvenile Hall and Holding Cells requested a response by the Probation Department to Finding number six "Juveniles and Juvenile Hall management agree that certain identifiable unsanitary conditions are in need of correction," and to Recommendation number two "Juvenile Hall management should take preventive and maintenance measures to address sanitation issues."

The Probation Department disagrees partially with finding number six.

The sanitation issues mentioned in the report relate to the presence of mice and ants within the Juvenile Hall. The Probation Department does not dispute that there have been mice and ants in the Juvenile Hall, but disagree that the presence of these pests are caused by unsanitary conditions within the Juvenile Hall. The presence of mice and ants are the result of the Juvenile Hall's location in a fielded area and the climate and habitat changes that have resulted in mice and ants entering the facility in search of food and water.

In regards to the concern raised in the report that minors are eating in their rooms due to staffing shortages, the Juvenile Hall does not have a shortage of staff. Minors eat in their rooms because the amount of time required to set up the living units for meals was impeding on the school hours and program time required by law. Also, it is important to note that mice were observed in common areas and in and around the large trash bins outside of the facility. There have been no reports of mice in individual sleeping rooms.

The Probation Department has dealt with ants in the facility off and on since the Juvenile Hall was opened in the 1980s. Since 2002, the Probation Department has followed the adopted County Integrated Pest Management Program.

The Probation Department believes it is important to have a sanitary Juvenile Hall. The cleaning of the Juvenile Hall is done on a daily basis by the minors who reside there. The Juvenile Hall has passed all

bi-annual inspections by the State of California and the cleanliness of the Juvenile Hall has never been called into question by the State.

The Probation Department has implemented recommendation number 2.

Prior to the Grand Jury's inspection, the presence of mice was addressed with the placement of paper traps, which is consistent with the County's Integrated Pest Management Program. However, following the inspection, General Services allowed for a higher level of intervention and has contracted with a private pest management service. This service involves the placement of industrial grade traps to be placed around the perimeter of the facility. As a result, the mice issue appears to have been resolved and facility management has had no additional reports of mice.

The most effective way of responding to ants has been to keep surfaces clean and clear of food. Sleeping rooms are mopped at least twice per week and swept daily. Unit floors are vacuumed daily. Carpets are shampooed three times per year. Trash is emptied daily and the kitchen surfaces are cleaned each night. A soapy water spray is also used to combat ants.