

SACRAMENTO COUNTY GRAND JURY 2025-26 CONFINEMENT REVIEW

SUMMARY

County Grand Jurors are required by law to inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the County every year. As per this requirement, the 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jury (Grand Jury) visited all five detention facilities within Sacramento County. Each of the five facilities serve a different function: youth detention facility with a focus on education while encouraging positive change in the lives of young detainees; Sacramento County Main Jail, primarily a transitional facility that handles booking and criminal litigation processes before and after trial; the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center, the primary detention facility of the County, and the Folsom prisons. The two state prisons in Folsom were evaluated as per Penal Code mandate due to their location in Sacramento County. The Grand Jury found that each facility has its own unique challenges from aging physical infrastructure to higher demand for medical and mental care. However, it is noted that much effort is being made to provide a safe environment and, to a degree, rehabilitation and educational opportunities to a diverse population of youth and adults at varying levels of detention.

INTRODUCTION

California Penal Code Section 919(b) mandates the County Grand Juries to inquire into the condition and management of public prisons within the county. There are five detention facilities in Sacramento County and these are, the Sacramento County Main Jail, the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center (RCCC), the Youth Detention Facility, Folsom State Prison, and California State Prison, Sacramento. The 2025-2026 Sacramento County Grand Jurors (Grand Jury) toured all five detention facilities. These tours included on-site inspection and evaluation of the condition of the public prisons, including inmates' facilities and in-person interviews with staff.

METHODOLOGY

Before each tour, Grand Jurors read previous confinement tour reports, scanned various media for news reports about the institutions, studied legal documents, such as consent decrees, reviewed complaints, composed questions for appropriate personnel, and determined the specific areas to be addressed during the tour.

During the tour, a short presentation and initial interaction with facility staff was followed by a tour of the facility led by correctional officers and other staff. Grand Jurors asked the staff and inmates questions about living conditions, activities, health care, and any other topics of concern. The tours typically lasted between two and three hours.

The Grand Jurors inspected parts of the facilities not open to the public. Most facilities provided the Grand Jury with printed materials containing data, including historical information, staffing and inmate statistics, available inmate programs, and information regarding medical and mental health care services.

After each tour, the Grand Jury reviewed the collected information and submitted written questions and requested responses. These inquiries included follow-up on what

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was observed during the tour and requests for additional information on policies and procedures related to booking processes, inmate safety, living conditions, etc. This review includes information contained in the responses.

The Foreperson of the Grand Jury recused herself from the Sacramento County Main Jail and RCCC tours and all follow-up and all discussion of these facilities in this review, due to a familial relationship.

YOUTH DETENTION FACILITY

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

The Sacramento Youth Detention Facility (SYDF) is located adjacent to the Sacramento Superior Court Juvenile Courthouse at 9601 Keifer Blvd. It is operated by the Sacramento County Probation Department.

The Grand Jury toured this facility on September 11, 2025. The tour began with a presentation by various management personnel and staff who answered Grand Jurors' questions. The Grand Jurors received an informational package entitled, "Sacramento County Probation Department Supporting Positive Change." The tour lasted for several hours and included an inspection of living quarters, classrooms and educational areas such as kitchens and gardens, Valley Oak Youth Academy (VOYA), as well as the multi-sensory de-escalation room. The Grand Jurors were provided with the following link to access general information about the Youth Detention Facility: [Link to the County of Sacramento Probation Department Institutions Youth Detention Facility Website](#).

OPERATIONS

The SYDF has two distinct components. The SYDF is the largest of the two facilities both physically and by population and serves youth between the ages of 12 to 18.

The second is VOYA, that addresses offenders from age 14 to 25 years convicted of serious violent felonies. The goal of VOYA is to help reintegrate these offenders back into society so that they avoid reoffending and reentering incarceration. During the tour, the Grand Jury met representatives of the educational El Centro Junior/Senior High School program, mental health services, medical and pharmaceutical services, and nursing services. They answered all of the Grand Jurors' questions and are well-informed. The Grand Jury observed that the Probation Department members and associated service providers took pride in their work and in the various services and opportunities for the detained youth.

Vocational opportunities available to detained youth include programs in horticulture, culinary arts, and construction/carpentry to help them develop skills for success upon release.

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It is clear from the Grand Jury's tour that a great deal of effort is placed both in the management of the physical structures and in the efforts of Probation staff and affiliated personnel to assist detained youth.

PERSONNEL

This facility has approximately 200 sworn staff consisting of managing and supervising officers, and assistant probation officers.

Civilian staff fill positions in Skills Training Enrichment Program, Leadership Education and Athletic Program, Scholars Obtaining Academic Responsibility, Northern California Construction Training, Horticulture, and Culinary. There are also more than 100 volunteers.

POPULATION

Approximately 106 youth resided here at the time of the site visit for a number of reasons that require temporary, short-term, or long-term detention.

CONCLUSION:

As noted in the prior Grand Jury report, SYDF continues to demonstrate commitment and effort in supporting positive change for the residents.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY MAIN JAIL

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

The Sacramento County Main Jail sits at the intersection of I Street and 7th Street in downtown Sacramento. It is operated by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. The Main Jail was constructed between 1984 and 1989. There have been proposals to expand the Main Jail, but the estimated cost of approximately \$1 billion is an obstacle. The Main Jail will continue as it is presently configured in both its physical structure and operational functions for the foreseeable future.

The Grand Jury toured this facility on September 25, 2025. The tour began with a presentation by management personnel and staff, followed by questions and answers. In addition, the Jurors received an informational package entitled "2025 Grand Jury Tour." The following link was subsequently provided to access general information about the Sacramento County Main Jail: [Link to the Sacramento County Sheriff Main Jail Website](#). The tour lasted for two hours and included two levels of the jail including living quarters, booking areas and medical services, including mental health and dental.

OPERATIONS

The Main Jail serves as the intake facility for nearly all individuals arrested in the entire County of Sacramento. There are seven incorporated cities in the County that have

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police agencies and staff. Additionally, the California Highway Patrol operates throughout the County, as does the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. The Main Jail is the primary location for booking and processing of arrestees from all law enforcement agencies. Thus, inmates at the jail come from all parts of Sacramento County, including those who may reside a substantial distance from the Jail.

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department operates the Main Jail under the requirements of the Mays Consent Decree. A major focus of the Mays Consent Decree addressed the need for increased and better mental health care. The latest status report on compliance with the Mays Consent Decree can be found on the Sacramento County Executive Reports and Resources website under the category titled, "Sacramento County Remedial Plan Status Reports": [Link to the County of Sacramento County Executive Office Reports and Resources Website.](#)

The Sheriff's Department provided updated information about medical care. During the tour, the Grand Jury observed various levels of mental health care, ranging from small group observation to thirty single isolation units for the highest level of need. Information provided indicated that these units are constantly occupied.

Each arrestee, upon entering the Mail Jail, undergoes a booking process consisting of six steps, including medical and mental evaluations, searches, review of criminal history, and appropriate physical searches. Once in custody, an inmate is classified based on the inmate's needs, housing assignment, and any special requirements.

The Main Jail offers a spectrum of programs for vocational training and educational opportunities to assist with reentry into society. However, the Main Jail is primarily a transitional facility that handles booking and pre-trial detainees.

PERSONNEL

On the day of the tour, there were 279 sworn Sheriff deputies. Non-sworn staff numbered 179, including building maintenance staff, vendors, medical staff of nurses, doctors, and psychiatric staff, and other occupations necessary to operate the facility.

Currently, the total staff vacancy is approximately 7% of authorized positions.

Sworn Sheriff personnel generally come from the training academy for their first assignment. Training addresses a wide range of key operational areas from Officer Safety to the Jail Inmate Management System. Additional training addresses suicide prevention and other mental health management issues.

Sheriff deputies generally spend 12 to 24 months working in the Main Jail.

POPULATION

During the calendar year 2024, the Main Jail handled 28,363 bookings for an average of 2,466 a month, roughly 80 per day.

Total Facility Capacity is 2,380.

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October 21, 2025 census, 1,472 males, 220 females.

The population was diverse, comprising 13 categories with 46% identifying as black, about 18% as Hispanic, and 28% as white. Due to its proximity to the Superior Court, many inmates are held pretrial, awaiting court appearances or trials. The Main Jail also held 117 federal pretrial detainees, but no ICE detainees.

CONCLUSION

The jail faces ongoing challenges, including legal hurdles such as the Mays Consent Decree and increased demand for medical and mental health care. The outdated infrastructure of the jail is a significant issue. The jail was designed and constructed in the 1980s and upgrading the facility with the technology that did not exist at the time has required an adapted installation within the existing, mainly concrete building structure. This may affect both the most efficient use of current technology and the future use of evolving technology.

RIO COSUMNES CORRECTIONAL CENTER

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

The Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center (RCCC) is located about 27 miles south of Sacramento, in a rural area within the city limits of Elk Grove. The Grand Jury toured this facility on October 23, 2025. The tour began with a presentation by various management personnel and staff who answered Grand Jurors' questions. In addition, Grand Jurors received an informational package, entitled "Sacramento County Sheriff's Office Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center". Subsequently, the following link was provided to access general information about RCCC: [Link to the Rio Cosumnes Correctional Website](#). The tour lasted approximately three hours and jurors inspected living and eating quarters, medical facilities, and various vocational learning areas.

Over the past nearly eighty years, numerous facilities have been built, remodeled, and expanded at the RCCC to address changing needs and demands. In addition to its confinement functions, RCCC maintains the Sheriff's Firearms Training Facility and bomb disposal training areas.

OPERATIONS

RCCC is the primary custody facility for inmates sentenced to county detention from the Sacramento County courts. RCCC transports inmates to the Sacramento County Main Jail daily to attend their trials or other legal proceedings. Additionally, inmates whose sentences are ending are released from the Main Jail rather than the remote RCCC.

Medical and mental health services comprise a substantial portion of the facility's functions. RCCC contains a 32-bed medical unit to address the mental competency of inmates charged with felonies. RCCC provides vocational training in automotive repair,

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printing, welding, and metal fabrication, and also assists with placement upon release. This work seeks to reduce recidivism and benefit both the inmate and society as a whole.

PERSONNEL

There are approximately 240 Sheriff's deputies and 105 civilians. Factoring in contract and support staff raises the total number to 450. At last count, medical personnel numbered 183, with 27 positions vacant.

POPULATION

Over the last year, the incarcerated population ranged between 1300-1500, both males and females.

CONCLUSION

RCCC is an older facility with a variety of physical units that present challenges.

“OLD” AND “NEW” FOLSOM PRISON

PHYSICAL STRUCTURE

Folsom prisons are state prisons compared to other detention facilities listed in this review that are county jail/detention facilities. It has two operating units referred to as “Old” Folsom Prison and “New” Folsom Prison and only houses male prisoners. The Grand Jury reviewed these facilities due to their location in Sacramento county.

Folsom State Prison is often referred to as the “Old” Folsom Prison and is the second oldest prison in California. “Old” Folsom occupies 1,200 acres in a hilly terrain not far from Folsom Lake. The Grand Jury toured the “Old” Folsom Prison on November 6, 2025. A flyer was provided titled “Folsom State Prison Family Day Tour.” Subsequently, the following link was provided to access general information about Folsom State Prison: [Link to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Folsom State Prison Website](#). The tour lasted approximately three hours and jurors inspected various living quarters, vocational facilities, and the exercise yard area.

The “New” Folsom Prison, formally known as California State Prison, Sacramento, began operations on October 1, 1986, accepting inmates in the highest security levels. The Grand Jury toured “New” Folsom Prison on November 20, 2025. No written material was distributed during the tour, but subsequently the following link was provided to access general information about the “New” Folsom Prison: [Link to the California State Prison, Sacramento Website](#). The tour lasted 2 to 3 hours and the Grand Jurors inspected the facilities and yard.

Although located within the city limits of Folsom, the mailing address for both institutions lists Represa, California.

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OPERATIONS

“Old” Folsom is a minimum (level I) to medium (level II/III) security facility, while “New” Folsom is a maximum-security facility. “Old” Folsom offers various services and activities through the California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority (previously the Prison Industry Authority). During the tour, jurors were able to interact directly with inmates participating in various vocational training and work. An incident occurred in the exercise yard area while the jurors were touring and inmates complied with correctional officer orders.

“Old” Folsom is well known as the sole site of automobile license plate production in California. There are additional vocational training and activities in welding, metalworking, Computer-Aided Design, forest firefighting, and Braille translation. The California Correctional Training and Rehabilitation Authority has an employment placement program that works with many companies and employers seeking skilled workers in these and other trades, as well as with employers willing to hire people discharged from custody.

“New” Folsom Prison is a distinct facility with its own leadership and staff. The inmate population at this facility needs the highest levels of security, which are Medium Security (level III), and Maximum Security (level IV). The rehabilitation opportunities and options are fewer at this facility compared to those at the “Old” Folsom Prison. When the Grand Jury toured, the “New” Folsom was under lockdown following an inmate-on-inmate incident in the exercise yard.

PERSONNEL

“Old” Folsom has 550 sworn correctional officers, and 509 civilians.

“New” Folsom has 912 sworn correctional officers and 584 civilians.

POPULATION

“Old” Folsom has 2685 incarcerated inmates.

“New” Folsom has 2158 incarcerated inmates.

CONCLUSION

Between “Old” and “New” Folsom Prisons, much effort is made to provide a safe environment and, to a degree, rehabilitation for a population ranging from minimum-security shorter-term inmates to those with the highest level of security needs, who may be incarcerated for many years.