

IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY



2021-2022 FINAL REPORT

<http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/>
Superior Court of California, County of Imperial

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

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LETTER FROM THE FOREPERSON

Imperial County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 296
El Centro, CA, 92244
June 6, 2022

Presiding Judge of the Civil Grand Jury
Superior Court of California in the County of Imperial
El Centro, California, 92243

Citizens of Imperial County and Honorable Judge,

In accordance with the California Penal Code, Section 933 (a), and in the name of the 2021-2022 Imperial County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury), it is my duty to submit our final report.

What commenced as a well staffed group of 26, soon dwindled down to 14. The continuous effect of COVID-19 was ever present throughout our term and caused numerous members to withdraw from service. Those that remained, took their oath to heart and continued to attend meetings and conducted the required site visits to the local jail and prison facilities. Perhaps due to the aforementioned effects of COVID-19, few legitimate investigation requests were received. The Grand Jury reviewed each and discussed and determined which had the potential to be an investigation or merely an inquiry.

A key aspect of a Grand Jury, as with any collaborative effort, is communication. The Grand Jury serves at the will of the people and under the auspice of the Superior Court and the County. Both entities play a vital role in the function and success of the Grand Jury. Unfortunately, the lack of communication between the two, as well as with the members of the jury, is apparent and can often create setbacks in trying to accomplish the goals of the jury. Direct and frequent communication between the Presiding Judge and the Grand Jury is also desired to afford the members the opportunity to express concerns and seek guidance as needed.

Fulfilling your civic duty in any capacity is a privilege and an honor. Setbacks of any kind occur in everyday life and should not dissuade anyone from wanting to serve on the Grand Jury. It is an exciting experience which allows insight to various aspects of our community which we would not otherwise be privy to. I encourage everyone who is able to serve, to volunteer and serve on next year's Civil Grand Jury.

Sincerely,

Ruben Martel
Foreperson
2021-2022 Imperial County Civil Grand Jury

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Superior Court of California County of Imperial

On behalf of our judiciary, and our jury commissioner staff, we would like to thank and congratulate the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury of Imperial County for its service, commitment, and contributions in making the grand jury system a relevant and important part of our local government. It is community members, like the grand jurors and regular trial jurors that help us preserve the principles of democracy in action and public trust in our local government.

The many hours devoted by members of the Grand Jury have resulted in investigations and recommendations aimed at improving the operations and of services by the agencies audited. Each year, the Court engages in community outreach to promote jury service and ensure that community participation in this important civic duty is not simply seen as a burden or inconvenience but as an opportunity to participate in our democratic governance process and improve our community.

Demographic data required by rule 10.625 of the California Rules of Court, for the 2021- 2022 Civil Grand Jury reflects the following representation of our community:

By Supervisorial District

District 1 = 4, District 2 = 8, District 3 = 5, District 4 = 1, District 5 = 5

Gender

Males = 12, Females = 11

Age

(18-25) = 2, (26-34) = 2, (35-44) = 3, (45-54) = 5, (55-64) = 10, (65-74) = 1, (75 & over) = 1

Race/Ethnicity

American Indian = 0, Asian American = 1, African American = 0, Hispanic = 5,
Native American = 0, White = 1, Not Available = 17

Again, many thanks to each member of the 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury for their civic duty and for making a difference in our community.

Sincerely yours,

William Derek Quan
Presiding Judge

Maria Rhinehart
Court Executive Officer/Jury
Commissioner

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Imperial County 2021-2022 Civil Grand Jurors

<u>Juror Position</u>	<u>Juror</u>	<u>City of Residence</u>
Foreperson:	Ruben Martel	El Centro
Secretary:	Audrey Noriega	Brawley
Treasurer:	Peter Rodriguez	El Centro
Sergeant-at-Arms:	Juan Manuel Perez	Calexico
	Marissa Trujillo	Imperial
	Theodore Gallinat	El Centro
	Christopher Lopez	El Centro
	Luis Hernandez	El Centro
	Oscar Martinez	Imperial
	Lorena Minor	Calexico
	Roy Caldwell	Imperial
	Jung Gwon	El Centro
	Maria Martinez	Brawley
	Jacob Rodriguez	El Centro

The 2021-2022 Imperial County Civil Grand Jury

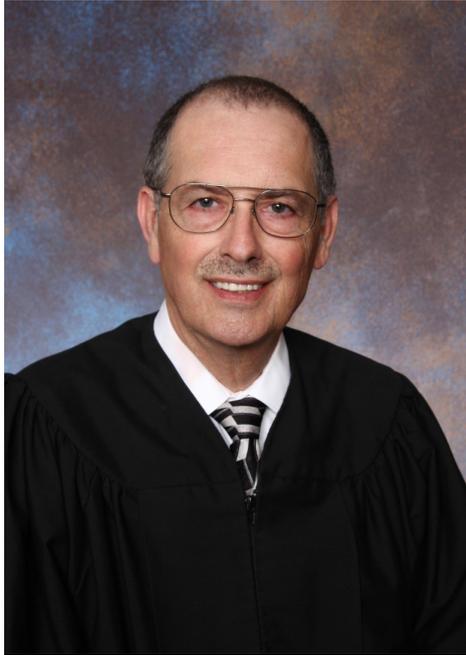


Civil Grand Jury (Left to Right, Top to Bottom): Jacob Rodriguez, Juan Manuel Perez, Ruben Martel, Oscar Martinez, Roy Caldwell, Pete Rodriguez, Ted Gallinat, Loren Minor, Jung Gwon, Marissa Trujillo, Audrey Noriega.

Not Pictured: Luis Hernandez, Christopher Lopez and Maria Martinez

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Presiding Judges



**Honorable L. Brooks Anderholt
Presiding Judge (January 2019-December 2021)**



**Honorable William Derek Quan
Presiding Judge (January 1, 2022-Present)**

County Counsel



**Veronica Henderson
County Counsel**

Jury Commissioners Office – Staff Members



Destiny Ramos, Ricki Marquez and Hernan Alanis

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INTRODUCTION TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

The primary mission of a Civil Grand Jury in the State of California is to examine county and city governments, as well as districts and other offices, in order to ensure that the responsibilities of these entities are conducted lawfully and efficiently. The Civil Grand Jury is also responsible for recommending measures for improving the functioning and accountability of these organizations, which are intended to serve the public interest.

The Civil Grand Jury is part of the county judicial system, as authorized by the California State Constitution. It is advised by the Superior Court but is not accountable to elected officials or government employees. Its findings and recommendations are unbiased and impartial. Grand jurors are sworn to secrecy, and, other than final reports, their work is kept strictly confidential.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Civil Grand Jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. The Civil Grand Jury in California is unusual because its duty includes investigation of local and county governments as provided by statutes passed in 1880.

The primary duty of the Civil Grand Jury is to evaluate local government entities through a systematic fact-finding process. The objective of the investigations is to produce beneficial reports that persuade local officials to run their agencies more effectively and efficiently. The final report is the end result of year-long investigative efforts and is the only public record of that endeavor.

Grand jury investigations are formal, systematic examinations in search of the truth. It is the process of determining Who, What, When, Where, Why ... and maybe Why Not? It is a specific, planned approach to determine the truth of allegations, assumptions, complaints, and speculation.

Anyone may ask the Civil Grand Jury to investigate a civil issue that falls within the Civil Grand Jury's jurisdiction. Whether it chooses to investigate such a complaint is entirely in the jury's discretion and may be affected by workload, resource limitations, or jurisdictional issues.

Each civil grand jury sets its own rules of procedures and creates committees to investigate and create reports. California Penal Code Section 925 states:

The grand jury shall investigate and report on the operations, accounts, and records of the officers, departments, or functions of the county including those operations, accounts, and records of any special legislative district or other district in the county created pursuant to state law for which officers of the county are serving ex-officio capacity as officers of the districts.

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Additionally, Section 919 prescribes that:

The grand jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county, including inquiring into willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the county.

The public may submit directly to the Imperial County Civil Grand Jury complaints, or requests for investigation, into issues of concern regarding public agencies or officials in the Imperial County. The public may request complaint forms by contacting the Superior Court of Imperial online via the [Civil Grand Jury Complaint Form](#)¹, by calling (760) 482-2200, or by using the form found on in the appendix of this report (page 38).

CONFIDENTIALITY

Civil Grand Juries conduct proceedings behind closed doors, as required by law, primarily for the protection of people who file complaints or who testify during investigations. All jury meetings, discussions, decisions, complaints, documents, investigations, and testimonies received are considered to be confidential, and members may not discuss these matters with others prior to publication of reports. All who appear as witnesses or communicate in writing with a grand jury are protected by strict rules of confidentiality, for which violations are subject to legal sanction.

JURISDICTION

The following summarizes the areas that are within the investigatory jurisdiction of the Imperial County Civil Grand Jury:

- The condition and management of the public jails within the County;
- Willful or corrupt misconduct in office of public officers of every description within the County;
- County government, city government, special districts, school districts, agencies and authorities;

Areas not within Civil Grand Jury jurisdiction include:

- Federal agencies;
- State agencies;
- Superior court system;
- School district personnel records, curriculum, and policy.

¹<http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/CourtDocumentsVB/Docs/Additional/Civil%20Grand%20Jury%20Complaint%20Form.pdf>

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CIVIL GRAND JUROR QUALIFICATIONS

Prospective grand jurors must possess the following qualifications (California Penal Code Section 893):

- Applicant is a citizen of the United States, 18 years or older, who has been a resident of Imperial County for one year immediately before being selected and sworn in;
- Applicant is in possession of their natural faculties, of ordinary intelligence, of sound judgement, and of fair character;
- Applicant is possessed of sufficient knowledge of the English language.

A person is not allowed to serve as a grand juror if the individual:

- Is serving as a trial juror in any California court;
- Has been convicted of a felony;
- Has been discharged as a grand juror in any court of this state within one year;
- Has been convicted of malfeasance in office or any felony or other high crime;
- Is serving as an elected public officer.

Desirable qualifications for a grand juror include the following:

- Have computer and Internet communication skills;
- Be in good health;
- Be open-minded with concern for the views of others;
- Have the ability to work with others;
- Have genuine interest in community affairs;
- Have investigative skills and an ability to write reports.

JURY SELECTION

Each year, citizens of the county who apply for civil grand jury service are invited to an orientation session for an overview of the process. The court then interviews them, and prospective names are forwarded for inclusion in the annual civil grand jury lottery. During the lottery, 19 panel members are selected, with the remaining to serve as alternates. Those selected are sworn in and instructed to their charge by the presiding judge. Civil grand jurors take an oath of confidentiality regarding any civil grand jury matters for the rest of their lives.

ORGANIZATION

The 2021-2022 Imperial County Civil Grand Jury served a term from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Its officers included a foreperson, secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms, and a chairperson for each committee. During the course of the term, members were divided into various committees, and may have served on several committees. General meetings were held twice monthly, but sometimes jurors required more frequent meetings for specific committee functions. No less than twelve (12) members of the Civil Grand Jury were required to approve all investigations, inquiries, and reports. All reports are completed, published, and become public information no later than June 30 of the Civil Grand Jury term.

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COMMITMENT

Persons selected for Civil Grand Jury service can expect to serve 40 or more hours per month for a period of one year, July 1 through June 30. Jurors may opt to serve a second consecutive year, if approved by the Court.

RENUMERATION

Civil Grand Jurors receive a nominal payment for meetings they attend, and they are reimbursed for mileage to attend meetings, training, and possibly other minor expenses.

ORIENTATION

New jurors are encouraged to attend an orientation program regarding grand jury functions and information about the county, city, and special district governments.

WHY BECOME A CIVIL GRAND JUROR?

Those who volunteer, and are accepted, for grand jury service should feel privileged to be selected. They enter this service with interest and curiosity to learn more about the administration and operation of Imperial County government. Serving as a grand juror requires many hours and serious effort and reflects a generous commitment to public service.

HOW TO CONTACT THE CIVIL GRAND JURY

By Mail: Imperial County Civil Grand Jury
P.O. Box 296, El Centro, CA, 92244

In Person: Materials can be placed in a drop box located by the entrance of the Imperial County Public Administration Building.

Online: <http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/CourtDocumentsVB/SCourtDocuments.aspx#set2>

By Phone: (760) 482-2200

A copy of the complaint form is also located in the appendix of this report (page 38).

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CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORTS

Section 933(a) of California Penal Code declares:

Each grand jury shall submit...a final report of its findings and recommendations that pertain to county government matters during the fiscal or calendar year.

The civil grand jury summarizes its findings and makes recommendations in a public report, completed at the end of its yearlong term. Each report is presented to the appropriate department or agency.

Section 933(b) declares:

One copy of each final report, together with the responses thereto, found to be in compliance with this title shall be placed on file with the clerk of the court and remain on file in the office of the clerk. The clerk shall immediately forward a true copy of the report and the responses to the State Archivist who shall retain that report and all responses in perpetuity.

Each report is distributed to public officials, libraries, the news media and any entity that is the subject of any of the reports. The public may also view each year's final report through the Superior Court of Imperial website: <http://www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/index.htm>

RESPONSE REQUIREMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Two working days prior to the release of the Final Report, the Grand Jury will provide a copy of the report to all affected agencies of persons or persons.

No officer, agency, department, or governing body of a public agency shall disclose the contents of the report prior to its public release.

All affected agencies or persons shall respond to their specific portions of the Final Report.

Responses are to be in writing, or on computer disk to assist with duplication, and are to be submitted in a timely manner.

Section 933(c) of the Penal code provides two different response times:

(1) Public Agency: the governing body of any public agency must respond within 90 days. The response must be addressed to the presiding judge of the Superior Court.

(2) Elective Officer or Agency Head: All elected officers or heads of agencies that are required to respond must do so within 60 days to the presiding Judge of the Superior Court, with an informational copy provided to the Board of Supervisors.

The legal requirements for responding to individual reports in the Civil Grand Jury Final Report, as contained in the California Penal Code, Section 933.05, are summarized as follows:

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The responding entity or person must respond in one of two ways:

- (1) That you agree with the finding.
- (2) That you disagree wholly or partially with the findings. The response shall specify the part of the findings that are disputed and shall include an explanation of the reasons for the disagreement.

Recommendations by the Civil Grand Jury require action.

The reporting entity or person must report action on all recommendations in one of four ways:

- (1) The recommendation has been implemented with a summary of the implemented action.
- (2) The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the near future with a timeframe for implementation.
- (3) The recommendation requires further analysis. If an entity or person reports in this manner, the law requires a detailed explanation of the analysis or study and timeframe not to exceed six months. In this event, the analysis or study must be submitted to the director or head of agency being investigated.
- (4) The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable, with an explanation of the situation.

If either a finding or a recommendation deals with budgetary or personnel matters of a county department headed by an elected officer, both the elected officer and the Board of Supervisors shall respond so if the Civil Grand Jury so requests.

The Board of Supervisors' response may be limited, while the response by the department heads must address all aspects of the findings or recommendations.

ADDRESS FOR DELIVERY OF RESPONSES

Civil Grand Jury Foreperson
P.O. Box 296
El Centro, California, 92244



Imperial County
2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury
Imperial County Local Agency
Formation Commission (LAFCO)
INQUIRY

JUSTIFICATION

The Imperial County Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) is authorized by state law to investigate complaints made against various agencies and bodies, which include those operated by county and city administrations, and special districts that operate within this county.

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BACKGROUND

The Imperial Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO) is a local government agency that is independent of the County and the Cities. Their duties include overseeing boundary changes (i.e. annexations, detachments, incorporations, extension of services, etc.) between the County, the cities, and special districts. There is one LAFCO for every County in California. The Imperial LAFCO consists of 5 members: 2 County Supervisors to represent the County of Imperial, 2 City Council members to represent the 7 cities in Imperial County, and 1 public member to represent the public in Imperial County.

LAFCOs are responsible for coordinating logical and timely changes in local governmental boundaries and conducting special studies that review ways to reorganize, simplify and streamline governmental structure. In addition, LAFCO prepares a Sphere of Influence for each city and special district in the county. The Commission's efforts are directed to seeing that services are provided efficiently and economically while protecting agricultural and open-space lands.

COMPLAINT

In July 2021, the Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) received a complaint against the Executive Director of LAFCO, Jurg Heuberger, and his possible conflict of interest due to his paid consulting work with local businesses.

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury Committee which inquired this complaint, reviewed the LAFCO website¹ and obtained the Statements of Economic Interests – Form 700 for Mr. Heuberger. The two person members of the committee, met with Mr. Heuberger at the LAFCO office at 1122 State Street, Suite D in El Centro. During the meeting, Mr. Heuberger was advised of the complaint received. He was forthcoming in his disclosure of his consulting jobs with ZGLOBAL, Energy Source and Polaris Industry (Glamis). He detailed his previous work experience with the County of Imperial and upon his retirement, obtained the Executive Director position with LAFCO. He has disclosed all his consulting jobs to the LAFCO board and it has been determined these do not conflict with any of the decision making undertaken through his LAFCO duties.

¹<https://www.iclafco.com>

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FINDINGS

F1. There is no reason to believe based on the filing of Mr. Heuberger’s Statements of Economic Interests – Form 700, filed with Imperial County and the State of California, that there is a conflict of interest between his consulting business and his duties as Director of LAFCO.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- None

DISCLAIMER

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.



Imperial County
2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury
Calipatria State Prison
ANNUAL INSPECTION

JUSTIFICATION

California State Law mandates that the Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) will inspect all prison and jail facilities on a yearly basis.

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BACKGROUND

Calipatria State Prison (CAL) is a minimum-maximum security prison located in Calipatria, California. In May 1989, the City of Calipatria agreed to annex the property as a satellite of its city property and provide city services as a way to increase its revenue through state funding (Bill 328). In September 1990, an agreement between the City of Calipatria and the State of California was made to declare that the annexed land would be owned by the State and exempt from local property taxes (City Resolution 90-16B, 91-14).

CAL opened in January 1992 and is operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. It covers a total of 1,227.5 acres (with the prison itself on 300 acres). At 184 feet below sea level, Calipatria is at the lowest elevation of any prison in the Western Hemisphere. The prison was originally designed to house 2,208 inmates, but prior to activation, modifications were made to double the number of inmates that could be held. CAL can hold over 4,000 inmates, if needed. Currently on the date of inspection, there were 2,695 inmates.

Inmate security ranges from Level One, the lowest level, to Level Four, the highest. Several Level One inmates are assigned as the institutional firefighters. Approximately 60% of the inmates are serving life sentences, while the remaining 40% will be eventually released, of those released nearly one percent of the released inmates will eventually return.

METHODOLOGY

The Imperial County Civil Grand Jury (ICGJ) conducted an inspection of CAL that included a tour of the major areas of the prison facility. They used a checklist developed by the previous Grand Jury members to guide their inspection. The areas of interest to the Grand Jury included the general safety and security of the facility, fire safety, food service, medical service, job training requirement for staff, law library, inmate treatment, investigations, housing units and staff morale. As part of the inspection, the ICGJ toured major areas within the prison, including Prison Perimeter, Medical Care Center, Receiving and Release Center, Inmate Housing, Educational Departments, Vocational Training Areas, and Kitchens.

DISCUSSION

Prison Perimeter

The Prison Perimeter is the perimeter of the main areas within the prison. The Prison Perimeter includes two layers of thirty foot tall chain-linked fencing, topped with concertina razor wire. Between the two fences, there is a third, which is a lethal electric fence. The lethal fence is electronically charged at all times, to prevent prison escape attempts. In addition each Inmate Housing Yard has its own tall chain-linked concertina topped fence to keep the inmates contained. There are also twelve guard towers along the Prison Perimeter, normally they are not used, due to the lethal electrical fences, however, should the need arise, all towers may be and can be used and armed.

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Medical Care

The Outpatient Housing Unit is located at the center of the prison and is designed to meet all immediate medical needs of the inmates. It has a short term housing for inmates who need medical attention not currently available in the housing areas. The ICGJ observed a complete pharmacy, dental room, complete X-ray unit, and rooms for examining inmates. While there the ICGJ also observed "sick call" for the inmates being seen by a doctor to diagnose any ailments they might have. Some inmates have to be transferred to Pioneer Memorial Hospital, sometimes by REACH Helicopter Ambulance service.

Receiving and Release

The Receiving and Release area is located next to the Outpatient Housing Unit. It is where inmates are processed for release and where new inmates are processed receiving. CAL has a low dose X-ray machine, which speeds up the receiving process. The X-ray has aided the Staff in detecting attempted smuggling of contraband, drugs and make shift weapons have been discovered with new arrival inmates.

Inmate Housing

At CAL, each of the four housing facilities contain five housing units, each with a capacity of two hundred inmates. The ICGJ visited Housing Facility A, which currently four of the five units were occupied. A5 is currently designed as a quarantine housing, for those testing positive of COVID 19 (on the day of inspection no cases of COVID 19). Each Housing area has educational classrooms, a satellite kitchen, small medical area and vocational training area.

Educational Departments

The State of California mandates that every inmate receives a General Educational Development (GED) while incarcerated. Inmates at CAL have access to in house classes that help them with their GED. There is also a path to a High School diploma, college courses for undergraduate up to Associate Degree. In addition there is a general and Legal Library for inmates. At the time of the ICGJ inspection, inmates were observed in both GED and College classes.

Main CAL Kitchen and Satellite Kitchens

All food for the CAL inmates is prepared in the central main kitchen, after being baked or cooked, it is quick chilled to 32 degrees, stored for up to 72 hours before reheated at one of the housing satellite kitchens. A state nutritionist/dietician determines what food is prepared and served. This is on a 13 week revolving schedule. Varied meals are provided for inmates on medical diets, such as inmates with diabetes, plus those on a religious diet and or vegetarian diets. All food from outside vendors is received at the central kitchen. The central kitchen maintains a 14 day (Two Weeks) supply of food to feed inmates properly prepared meals. For each meal a random meal is stored known as the "Deadman's meal" for up to 72 hours for testing examining purposes, in the

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event possible food poisoning.

The ICGJ also inspected the satellite kitchen in the 'A' Housing unit. Each satellite kitchen will provide a minor meal preparation and serving.

FINDINGS

F1. During the inspection it was noted several cracked windows in the A block.

F2. The updated Medical Facilities located within each "yard" allows for speeder care, vice having to transport the inmates to the central Medical facility.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

R1. Replace and repair with updated glass material to stand up to the Imperial Valley heat.

REQUIRED RESPONSES

No response is required, as CAL is part of a California State Agency.



Imperial County
2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury
Centinela State Prison
ANNUAL INSPECTION

JUSTIFICATION

California State Law mandates that the Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) will inspect all prison and jail facilities on a yearly basis.

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BACKGROUND:

Centinela Prison (CEN) is operated by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The prison was opened in October 1993 and began receiving inmates immediately thereafter. The prison was originally designed to house 2,208 inmates. At the time of the Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) inspection, the prison reported that it held an average of 2,900 inmates.

CEN is currently operating under the following capacities: Facilities A and B are Level III, Facility C is Level 4 and Facility D is Level III. In addition, CEN has a Level III "sensitive needs" facility, which houses inmates who are believed to be unable to successfully integrate into the general inmate population facility, for both safety and security reasons. CEN also operates a smaller, Level I facility which is the Non-Designated Programming facility (NDPF) which means they are not General Population (GP) or SNY and in which the inmates all live together.

The CEN mission statement is as follows:

The mission of the Centinela State Prison is to provide long-term confinement to men who have been convicted of felonious crimes and remanded to the State of California for incarceration. Inmate productivity and self-improvement are considered integral components to Centinela's overall objective to reduce recidivism among those inmates incarcerated at our institute.

Prior Civil Grand Jury Reports advised CEN was associated with the American Correctional Association (ACA) for auditing purposes. They are no longer associated with ACA and all audits and reviews are conducted directly through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

METHODOLOGY:

The Grand Jury conducted an inspection of CEN that included a tour of major areas of the prison. The Grand Jury was provided a tour of various areas of the facility by Administrative Assistant/Public Information Officer Lt. Dustin Loop. The members of the Grand Jury were able to meet with Warden Sean Moore and various members of his executive staff, in which we were free to ask relevant questions. The Grand Jury members were able to attend a "Zoom" executive meeting in which they were free to ask questions of the attending staff members. We were encouraged to visit or inspect any department or area so desired.

The Grand Jury inspected the following areas of CEN: Administration Building, Staff Entrance, Central Health Treatment Center, Complex-1 Control, Visitation, Inmate Housing, Dining/Culinary, Satellite Medical Unit, Gymnasium, Vocational Education, Recreation Yard, Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU), and Family Visitation.

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DISCUSSION:

Staff Entrance

Every person entering the fenced perimeter must present a valid Centinela Prison ID. Approved visitors are issued a visitor pass and must register in/out.

Central Health

Central Health Treatment Center is centrally located in the prison grounds and has an ambulance for emergencies. Correctional personnel provides escorts, security, and transportation of inmate patients to and from the Health Center. The Health Center maintains an Infirmary, on-duty physician, R.N's, Pharmacy, Nutritionists.

Effective Jan. 3, 2022, incarcerated persons must be fully vaccinated, or have an approved medical or religious exemption, prior to participating in the in-person and family visiting programs. Inmate general visitation has been restricted and currently is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. In-person visitors who are unvaccinated must provide proof of a negative Covid-19 test taken no longer than 72 hours prior to the visit. Fully vaccinated visitors must present their valid vaccination card indicating they are at least two weeks past the final vaccination series in lieu of a negative Covid-19 test result.

Inmate Vocational Programs

The CGJ visited the Vocational and Educational area. Numerous inmate students were in attendance for Maintenance, Small Engine Repair, Auto Body, Electronics, Roofing, and Welding. These trades will be useful for the inmate population to integrate, be employed, and remain successful in their perspective communities.

Academic Programs

Adult Basic Education (ABE I, ABE II, ABE III) GED, Voluntary Education Program (VEP), Independent Study, and Literacy Lab.

Other

Service Crews, Religious Programs for all faiths, Alternative to Violence Programs, Alcoholic/Narcotics Anonymous, Creative Conflict Resolution Workshops, Life Without a Crutch, Cage your Rage.

Inmate Housing Unit

The CGJ visited a housing unit that was running in safe order. There were two Correctional Officers supervising the floor and a third Correctional Officer operating the elevated control booth with a full view of the dayroom program. The Control Booth Officer operates all building doors. The officers were in total control of their building.

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Administrative Segregation Unit

The CGJ visited the Administrative Segregation Unit (ASU). Before entering every person is required to produce proper identification. It is required to sign in the Visitor Log Book and provided protective stab vests for safety. Inmates placed in the ASU require more restricted control, due to the safety concerns of other inmates if they were placed within the general population. There are up to two inmates per cell. Inmates in ASU are placed in restraints any time they leave their cell. The ASU has a capacity of 200 inmates. They are allowed the same rights to the law library, religious meetings with the clergy, or meetings with their lawyers for legal purposes or mail correspondence. A medical clinic is adjacent to the ASU with full medical access and treatment. The cells, shower, and corridors were cleaned and sanitized. The recreation yards are fenced to provide safety and the inmate population receives up to 10 hours of recreation each per week.

Satellite Medical Unit

The CGJ visited one of the Satellite Clinics and observed the medical staff administering services. A Correctional Officer was providing security as we observed an inmate being provided dental services and another being interviewed by an RN. Inmates are provided pill-line services and daily diabetic insulin injections with complete medical examinations for sick call purposes.

Gymnasium and Recreation

The CGJ visited a gymnasium and at the time it was being cleaned by an inmate worker. The gym is equipped to handle a variety of services, including basketball, volleyball, and handball. A Correctional Officer on the floor and another Officer on an elevated platform provided security. The football field size recreation yard and the track were being utilized by the inmate population. Handball and basketball games could be observed while others were utilizing exercise bars. The baseball field and horseshoe pit were not being utilized at the time.

Family Visitation

The CGJ was allowed to visit the family visitation units. One of the units visited was currently being utilized as an office. The unit contains a full kitchen, bedroom, family area, and restroom. Any inmate may apply and fill out a family visitation packet which is received and processed by the Family Visiting Coordinator. There are family visiting guidelines that need to be followed. There is a criterion for both the eligible and ineligible inmates depending on their current status or commitment offense. It is the responsibility of the inmate to convey the Family Visiting information, rules, and regulations to the visitors. All food consumed by the inmate and family is purchased by the inmate.

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When an inmate or visitor has canceled a scheduled visit, the inmate must reapply. All approved inmates must submit to an unclothed search prior to and after the visit and provide a urine sample prior to and after the visit for testing.

FINDINGS

- F1.** CEN Staff in leadership positions are very well-informed and knowledgeable about laws and regulations for the State of California.
- F2.** The Correctional Treatment Center is well-staffed and ready to treat inmates. It is well-equipped to handle emergencies.
- F3.** The Grand Jury was able to inspect CEN with no restrictions. Staff was very open to answering questions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1.** It is recommended that administrative staff continue to value and provide appropriate training and professional development to prison staff.
- R2.** It is recommended that the same level of staffing and training be maintained, to ensure the same quality of treatment and supervision is provided for inmates.

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

No response is required as Centinela State Prison is a State Agency.

DISCLAIMER:

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Imperial County
2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury
Imperial County Jail
ANNUAL INSPECTION

JUSTIFICATION

California State Law mandates that the Civil Grand Jury (Grand Jury) will inspect all prison and jail facilities on a yearly basis.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

BACKGROUND

The Imperial County Jail is operated by the Corrections Division of the Imperial County Sheriff's Office (ICSO). The Imperial County Jail is made up of three main facilities to include Herbert Hughes Correction Center (HHCC), built in the 1960s and currently has 314 beds, full kitchen, the Regional Adult Detention Facility (RADF), built in the 1970s, currently has 288 beds and the Oren Fox Detention Center (OFDF), which became operational in 2018 and it has 274 beds.

Herbert Hughes Correctional Center (HHCC)

The HHCC contains two dormitories and a multipurpose room, which were added to the facility in 1989. The dormitories are divided into six separate dormitories and have a total capacity to incarcerate up to 314 inmates. In the multipurpose room is a low power x-ray machine that has aided the Staff in detecting attempted smuggling of contraband, drugs and make shift weapons which have been discovered with new arrival inmates. There is also located in the HHCC a Chapel and Classrooms. The kitchen for the entire jail is also housed here in the HHCC.

Regional Adult Detention Facility (RADF)

Incarceration admissions occur at the RADF. The process is as follows: First, individuals are booked and given a brief medical screening; then, they are put into a temporary holding cell; next, they are sent to a dressing room and issued clothing. Then, if needed, inmates are sent to the medical treatment center; finally, the inmates are placed in an incarceration cell. At the RADF, there are twelve separate cell modules, each consisting of ten to twenty separate cells. These modules are known as pods. The RADF has a total capacity of 288 inmates, both male and female. The general population is made up of those who are un-sentenced. There are also a group of sentenced inmates, including those under administrative segregation, those with special needs and those who are high risk. At the time of the Imperial County Grand Jury (ICGJ) the longest servicing inmate was just over 20 years of incarceration.

Oren Fox Detention Facility (OFDF)

The OFDF is an 8,000 square foot medium security facility named after late Imperial County Sheriff Oren R. Fox, who served as Sheriff for 23 years and who dedicated his life in protecting this community for over 40 years in Law enforcement. He also rose to the rank of Brigadier General in the National Guard, serving his Country. OFDF features six housing pods, which can house 45 inmates. There are also four additional medical beds designed for treating inmates. The OFDF has a total capacity of 274 inmates. The OFDF can provide healthcare, rehabilitative programs, educational programs, intake and release and is the site of administrative and support service offices.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

METHODOLOGY

The Grand Jury conducted an inspection of the Imperial County Jail that included a tour of all the major areas of the facilities. Prior to the inspection, the Grand Jury was given a presentation outlining the history, the present and the future goals of the Imperial County Jail. The ICSO staff encouraged questions and answered them fully, providing statistics and a power point brief of the facility.

The ICGJ used a checklist, developed by the previous grand jury to guide the 2022 inspection. The checklist included, but was not limited to, the general safety and security of the facility, food services, medical services, as well as key and tool control. The ICGJ inspected various areas of all three facilities.

DISCUSSION

Medical Care

Physical health – The Imperial County Jail medical staff is on duty twenty-four hours daily for inmate injuries and illnesses. Imperial County contracts with outside medical care services to evaluate the physical health needs of the inmates. Medical services are part of the admission process, where a pre-medical questionnaire is filled out during the booking process. If the questionnaire indicates possible medical problems, after receiving their clothing, new inmates are sent to the medical treatment center for evaluation and screening.

Mental health – The Imperial County Jail contracts with an outside mental health service to help aid the evaluation of the mental health needs of its inmates.

Safety and Security

In each part of the jail, cameras have been installed so staff can monitor the incarcerated inmates. Some of the cameras can zoom and pan-in to help increase safety and security of the facilities. In the OFDF they have an assigned Officer working in the command center located above the pods, which allows them to monitor and ensure safety of both the Correctional Officers and the inmates.

Transportation Department

Responsible to transport prisoners to other facilities, to mental health appointments, California State Hospitals, and Court appearances.

Recidivism

As stated earlier the ICGJ was given a brief presentation outlining the current and future goals of the Imperial County Jail. One of the key focus areas is related to assisting inmates in not returning to jail once released, (recidivism). This program is targeted to helping inmates developing life skills through counseling and various issues, including drug and alcohol dependency, as well as

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family relationship counseling.

Main Kitchen – Food Preparation/Service

The Imperial County Jail serves approximately Fifty-Seven thousand meals per year. Correctional staff serve the meals in the pods directly, where the inmates are housed. The ICGJ observed the food preparation area which were in all appearances clean and sanitary. The meals have a balanced calorie count and meal temperatures are recorded before serving.

Fire Crew

Some of the Imperial County Inmates are fully trained Fire Fighters to aide in the County's fire response.

FINDINGS

F1. The Imperial County Jail is well-run. The Corrections Officers and Staff appear to be well trained and equipped to handle emergencies.

F2. There were numerous programs on hold because of the COVID 19 issue. During the ICGJ some of the programs were being restarted.

F3. Medical limitations at the time of the inspection, due to staffing shortage.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. Continue to search for and hire qualified Medical personnel to address these shortages.

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Imperial County
2021-2022 Civil Grand Jury
Imperial County Juvenile Hall
ANNUAL INSPECTION

JUSTIFICATION

California State Law mandates that the Civil Grand Jury investigate and report on the state prisons and jail facilities each year, this mandate includes the Imperial County Juvenile Hall.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

BACKGROUND:

The Civil Grand Jury is required by the Penal Code section 919(b) to “inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”

The California Attorney General issued an opinion (No. 18-103, dated March 10, 2022) stating that the term “public prisons” includes “local detention facilities,” defined as facilities that confine people for more than 24 hours.

Regardless of this recent clarification, the Civil Grand Jury has historically conducted site inspections as part of their investigations on local detention facilities, including the County Jail and Juvenile Hall. The last inspection of Juvenile Hall was conducted by the 2018-2019 Civil Grand Jury. Due to COVID-19 safety protocols, inspections had not been able to be conducted.

METHODOLOGY:

A committee of the Civil Grand Jury toured and inspected the facility, interviewed various staff members, reviewed the Probation Department website, reviewed past Grand Jury investigations, and reviewed external documents by other government agencies to satisfy the legal requirement to independently verify all information which may be published in the Final Report.

At the time of the Grand Jury inspection, there were 47 Wards in residence.

DISCUSSION:

FACILITY ADMINISTRATOR

We were greeted by and met with Dan Prince, Chief Probation Officer, in his office and were able to ask questions. Juvenile Hall is overseen by the Imperial County Probation Department and Mr. Prince, as department head, also serves as the facility’s administrator. We were able to see the administrative offices in passing and they appeared adequate and orderly.

FACILITY MANAGER

We were then introduced to the Juvenile Hall Facility Manager, who is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the facility. He escorted us around, provided extensive information, and was able to answer our questions throughout the entirety of our tour. He appeared to be an extremely competent administrator, compassionate about the wards under his charge, and was forthcoming with us.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

INTAKE

We inspected the intake room, which consists of a padded chair at a desk along with adequate equipment such as a desktop computer and a live-scan fingerprint scanner. There, new ward arrivals undergo screening and classification depending on their risk and background, including their past victimization, potential to victimize other youth in custody, and any prior offenses, among other considerations. It was noted that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as long-term changes in juvenile justice disfavoring institutionalization, only wards accused of committing felonies are generally kept in custody. Misdemeanor offenders are usually released to their homes to await juvenile proceedings and other interventions.

MENTAL HEALTH

We then inspected a field office of Imperial County Behavioral Health Services located across from intake. There is no permanent Behavioral Health staff stationed there and many services have been occurring remotely due to the pandemic. However, when circumstances require, an on-call Behavioral Health employee will promptly arrive to provide appropriate treatment or services. Behavioral Health's Youth and Young Adults program and its Substance Use Disorder program provide well-rounded treatment for the mental and behavioral health issues of the wards confined there.

GARDEN

We then met with the facility Garden Coordinator, who oversees and personally teaches the gardening and nutrition program that takes place in the "Garden of Dreams," a modestly-sized outdoor secure area with dirt plots for flowers and vegetables. Through this program, the wards can experience planting, caring for, and eventually harvesting and eating their own crops. This program serves to teach them useful hands-on life skills, promotes good nutrition habits, and often acts as a relaxing outlet for stress relief. We also spoke with the Community Education Specialist with the local UC Cooperative Extension, as well as the Nutrition Coordinator for the facility. All three were extremely informative and passionate about their respective roles in helping provide a positive environment for the youthful offenders to hopefully turn their lives around.

MULTIPURPOSE ROOM

We inspected their multipurpose room adjacent to the garden, where food is served to the youth. However, the food itself is prepared in another facility in the Sheriff/Probation complex. The room, which appeared in good condition, is also used for family visitation as well as religious services due to its ample seating.

SECURITY

We then proceeded to the central reception area, where a guard is stationed and where they can view monitors displaying various camera feeds. Generally, one supervisor, one roving patrol, and one guard for each of the three dormitories in use—for a total of five guards—ensure

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security and the safety of the wards and staff. This facility's staffing ratio exceeds the minimum standards of one staff member per ten confined youth required by Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. At the time of the inspection, only seven wards were in custody. Given that the facility's average daily population for the present fiscal year is six, we are satisfied that Juvenile Hall's staffing levels are sufficient to provide reasonable security. The facility has secure, locked doors as well as perimeter fencing with concertina wire. Guards must visually confirm each youth is okay periodically, even if some dorms have alert buttons.

SCHEDULE

Near the central reception area, we were shown a large whiteboard showing the week's schedule. For the wards, their day generally begins at 6AM, followed by 6:30AM physical education to avoid the Valley's heat, hygiene time, recreation time, mealtime, classes broken up into two parts, and varying programming and visitation opportunities spread throughout the week. Bedtime is at 8:30PM. That is the only time the youth are confined to their rooms, barring exceptional circumstances.

DORMITORIES

We then toured a regular dorm as well as the "Honor" dorm, where well behaved wards can earn additional privileges such as a video game console, access to a commissary, and less stringent supervision. Both dorms appeared in good condition, with sufficient seating, working toilets, sinks, and semi-private showers. Both dorms had bilingual PRA notices, complaint forms, and boxes to submit them. There was an emergency box containing a cutting tool for any ligature-based suicide attempts, which thankfully are very rare.

EDUCATION

We then visited one of two classrooms available, where most if not all the wards were present and seated in what was typical classroom desks. A video was playing for them, but some chose to continue on their schoolwork. They all appeared in good condition and were respectful to us. We met the teacher, who provides both physical education and classroom instruction tailored to each youth's unique learning level and age. He was extremely passionate about what he does despite the challenges of this teaching environment, and it was evident to us that the wards were in good hands. The instructor has been successful in getting several youth to earn their high school diplomas while in custody. He is employed by the County Office of Education, a partner agency. Earlier that day, the Imperial Valley Desert Museum visited, as they do occasionally along with other outside organizations, to provide a special educational activity.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

MEDICAL

There is a medical room, which appeared hygienic and is furnished with a medical exam bed, an x-ray machine, and other essential equipment. A nurse is stationed in that room for a limited number of hours a day, provided by third-party company Wellpath. They are capable of drawing blood for testing and doing COVID-19 testing there. COVID-19 precautions such as masking are still in effect at the facility, in accordance with state guidelines, as it is a congregate facility. New arrivals are quarantined for ten days in one of the dormitory wings.

FINDINGS

- F1.** Members of staff expressed concern with the amount of hours the staff nurse is at their facility. Her duties are shared with the Sheriff's Office Jail.
- F2.** Staff also requested a negative air pressure room within the facility for medical isolation and contagious disease control purposes.
- F3.** Several computers were visible in the classroom, but according to staff only one was operational at the time of the site visit.
- F4.** Due to the age of building and budget priorities, some areas were not as deinstitutionalized as staff would prefer. A less-dreary paint job, decorations, and furnishings that do not compromise security would improve the morale of the residents and staff.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- R1.** Maintain proper documentation of the time spent by the nurse at the facility and provide a comparison with the times a nurse was needed and outside medical attention was required for a detainee.
- R2.** Research the feasibility of a negative air pressure room in the facility. Prepare a well detailed presentation to the County, including the fiscal impact for the construction and long term costs of the request.
- R3.** Submit a budget request for the repair or replacement of the non-operable computers in the classroom. With distance learning becoming more common, this is a necessity for the juveniles to continue their education.
- R4.** Facility maintenance for the county should be consulted to look into making the necessary requested changes to the facility which fall within the allocated building maintenance budget.

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

REQUIRED RESPONSES:

Pursuant to Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, the grand jury requests responses from the following governing bodies within 90 days:

Imperial Valley Juvenile Hall: R1, R2, R3, R4

Please submit an official response to the Civil Grand Jury Foreperson, P.O. Box 296, El Centro, CA, 92244

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**Imperial County Civil Grand Jury
CITIZEN COMPLAINT FORM**

See the instructions and FAQs for information about how and whether you should complete this form.

SECTION A: COMPLAINANT CONTACT INFORMATION

All information you provide, including your identity, will be kept confidential. This part is optional if you wish to make an anonymous complaint. However, please keep in mind that the Civil Grand Jury will not be able to contact you, among other factors you should consider. Please see Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) #5 in the instructions to learn more.

YOUR FULL NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY, STATE, AND ZIP CODE:

PHONE NUMBER(S) / OTHER CONTACT:

SECTION B: SUBJECT OF MY COMPLAINT

Please be clear if your complaint is against an entity/agency, a specific individual, or both. The Civil Grand Jury only has jurisdiction over certain entities and officials within Imperial County. See FAQ #3 to learn more.

NAME(S) / TITLE(S) /
ENTITY OR AGENCY NAME:

ADDRESS OF ENTITY OR
FACILITY / LOCATION INVOLVED:

PHONE NUMBER / EXTENSION, IF KNOWN:

SECTION C: MY COMPLAINT

Describe the facts and circumstances of your complaint in your own words. Please be specific rather than making broad or vague statements. Include important details such as dates, times, locations, witnesses, names, etc. Your complaint can be in any format you prefer, as long as it can be understood by the Civil Grand Jury. There is no word limit.

All communications to the Civil Grand Jury are CONFIDENTIAL under state law
SECTION C: MY COMPLAINT (CONTINUED)

My complaint is continued on _____ attached sheet(s)

SECTION D: DESIRED ACTION/OUTCOME (OPTIONAL)

Please briefly explain what action you would like the entity/individual(s) involved and/or the Civil Grand Jury to take to resolve or address your complaint. Please see FAQ #2 to learn about the limits of the Civil Grand Jury's authority.

SECTION E: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- I am currently involved in or aware of active litigation (court proceedings) regarding the subject matter of my complaint
- I believe that my complaint involves a crime that was committed (Notice: Your complaint may be referred to the District Attorney if a criminal matter; it is a misdemeanor under Pen. Code §148.5(d) to knowingly file a false report of a crime)
- I fear that I may be subjected to: physical harm - and/or - retaliation if my identity is revealed as the complainant

IF YES TO ANY ABOVE, EXPLAIN:

I have included or attached supporting documentation with this complaint (Do not submit original documents)

SECTION F: CERTIFICATION AND SIGNATURE

This part is optional if you are submitting an anonymous complaint, but please indicate today's date below. Checking the box below is optional. To learn more about the legal consequences of lying on this form, see FAQ #4.

By checking this box, I certify under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing and any submitted documentation is true and correct.

X:	DATE:
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U.S. Mail:	Civil Grand Jury PO Box 296 El Centro, CA 92244	<i>DO NOT WRITE HERE / FOR CIVIL GRAND JURY USE ONLY</i>
Drop Box:	940 Main St, El Centro, CA 92243	VIA: <input type="checkbox"/> US MAIL <input type="checkbox"/> DROP BOX <input type="checkbox"/> EMAIL <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: _____
:		REC.: _____ / _____ / 20 _____ BY: <input type="checkbox"/> FOREPERSON <input type="checkbox"/> SECRETARY
		NOTES:



Imperial County Civil Grand Jury INSTRUCTIONS / FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS For the Citizen Complaint Form

Communications from the public can provide valuable information to the Civil Grand Jury. Any person may submit a completed complaint form to request that the Civil Grand Jury conduct an investigation or inquiry. A complaint must be in writing and is treated as confidential. The use of this form is optional but recommended by the Civil Grand Jury.

INSTRUCTIONS: Complete the form **clearly** so that it can be understood by others. Keep a copy for your records. Any documentation submitted will not be returned. Attach additional sheets of paper if you run out of space in a section.

Section A: Provide sufficient information for the Civil Grand Jury to be able identify and contact you.

Section B: Identify the entity, agency, individual, etc. which your complaint is about. See FAQ #3.

Section C: Write out your complaint in full, with as many details as possible, such as dates, places, and witnesses.

Section D: Briefly state what you would like done about your complaint. This question is optional.

Section E: If any of the statements in this section apply to you or your complaint, check the appropriate box(es). If you have additional information or context, briefly explain or elaborate in the space provided.

Section F: Sign and date your form. Checking the box to submit the form under penalty of perjury is optional but is suggested if you are making a truthful complaint. See FAQ #4. Return the completed form using any method listed.

To make an anonymous complaint: Skip Section A and do not sign in Section F. See FAQ #5.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

FAQ #1: What is the Civil Grand Jury?

- A body of 19 Imperial County citizens appointed by the superior court to provide oversight as an independent watchdog for a term of one year.
- The California Constitution requires a grand jury to be empaneled for each county in the state.
- This grand jury only deals with civil local/county matters and not criminal prosecutions.
- The Civil Grand Jurors collectively determine what they will look into and must issue a final report at the end of their term with findings and recommendations based on their investigations.

FAQ #2: What authority does the Civil Grand Jury have?

- Conducts investigations (findings published in the final report) and smaller inquiries (findings not published) into matters within its jurisdiction:
 - Corrupt or willful misconduct by public officials
 - Condition/management of jails and prisons
 - Operations, accounts, records, and equipment of the agencies/officials of county government
 - Books and records of any incorporated city or joint powers agency in the county
- Agencies must respond to recommendations made by the Civil Grand Jury in its final report.
- Has the legal right to inspect public records in the county and can obtain subpoenas for evidence or testimony under oath.
- Can perform inspections as well as confidential interviews to protect the identity of complainants.
- Can initiate legal proceedings to remove certain government officers from office for misconduct.
- The Civil Grand Jury has no authority to question or force agencies/officials to do discretionary acts.

FAQ #3: Who/what can the Civil Grand Jury investigate?

- The subject of your complaint must be an agency/official/institution within Imperial County.
- The Civil Grand Jury has no jurisdiction over any federal agency, official, program, or decision.
- The Civil Grand Jury has no jurisdiction over any court, judge, or state agency/official, with the sole exception of the State Prisons within the county.

FAQ #4: What are the legal consequences of submitting a complaint?

- If you check the box in Section F, your complaint will be under oath and subject to the criminal penalties for perjury (a felony) should you knowingly lie.
- Other laws exist regarding false statements to the jury. If interviewed, you may be put under oath.
- Consult sections 888 through 939 of the Penal Code and/or a licensed attorney for legal advice.

FAQ #5: Can I make a complaint anonymously?

- Yes, but do consider that your identity will be protected by state law if you make a complaint. The Civil Grand Jury can admonish people to maintain confidentiality under penalty of contempt of court.
- Anonymous complaints may be viewed as less credible, depending on the circumstances.

FAQ #6: Will I receive a response?

- You will be contacted only if the Civil Grand Jury requests more information from you.
- Due to confidentiality, the Civil Grand Jury does not comment on pending investigations. You may have to wait until the final report is published to see if your complaint was investigated and any outcome.

See past final reports and learn more at: www.imperial.courts.ca.gov/general-information/grand-jury

2021-2022 IMPERIAL COUNTY CIVIL GRAND JURY FINAL REPORT

//END OF REPORT//