COUNTY OF YOLO

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County Administrator, **Michael Webb**
Sr. Deputy Clerk of the Board, **Julie Dachtler**

September 9, 2025

To: Honorable Judge Timothy L. Fall
Superior Court of California, County of Yolo
1000 Main Street
Woodland, CA 95695

To: Yolo County Grand Jury
P.O. Box 2142
Woodland, CA 95776

RE: 2024-2025 Yolo County Grand Jury Report: Yolo County Detention Facilities

Honorable Judge Fall,

The following is the response to the findings and recommendations in the 2024-2025 Yolo County Grand Jury Report titled, "Yolo County Detention Facilities: Correctional Officer staffing challenges are ongoing" from the Yolo County Board of Supervisors. The response from the Yolo County Sheriff's Office was sent under separate cover on July 29, 2025 and is attached. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors appreciates the Grand Jury's commendation of both the Monroe Detention Facility's and Juvenile Detention Facility's staff and programming.

F-1: Correctional officer hiring and staffing is a serious challenge for Monroe Detention Facility (MDF).

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding. The Sheriff's Office has taken proactive steps, including hiring incentives and a professional advertising campaign (see https://joinycso.com/correctional-officer), to reduce vacancies in the Correctional Officer I/II classifications.

F-2: The MDF should have 120 officers; at the time of inspection, they had 98. At a follow-up meeting in May 2025, they had 94 Correctional Officers due to a handful of recent retirements.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F-3: Due to the staffing shortage, there is a lot of forced overtime.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

> Sheriff's Office response under separate cover:
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> The Sheriff's Office concurs with this finding. Although it should be noted that overtime is filled voluntarily as much as possible.

F-4: Understaffing at the MDF is creating the need to release inmates because the jail has reached capacity. Per MDF leadership, in 2024, a total of 18 individuals were released under the consent decree. The individuals released were in different stages of their court proceedings or serving time when released. The individuals released were determined to be the most suitable for release based on the consent decree criteria. (Re: Yolo County Jail NA (E.D. Cal.) | Civil Rights Litigation Clearinghouse)

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F-5: Applying for the correctional officer position is a long process. Some applicants have accepted a job elsewhere due to the length of time it takes to get through the application process, and if in corrections, they may take a similar job with higher pay in neighboring counties.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding.

F-6: The pay scale for the Yolo County correctional officer is lower compared to other adjacent counties.

Response: The respondent disagrees with this finding. Yolo County's Correctional Officers I/II received equity adjustments to 95% of market as of November 2022 and 100% of market as of January 2023 as part of their 3-year Memorandum of Understanding, which expired June 30, 2025.

> Sheriff's Office response under separate cover:
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> The Sheriff's Office partially concurs with this finding. The pay scale for Yolo County employees is negotiated via the collective bargaining process with the County.

F-8: According to MDF Command staff, approximately 10% of applicants pass the background check.

Response: The respondent disagrees with this finding for the reasons described in the Sheriff's Officer response.

> Sheriff's Officer response under separate cover:
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> The Sheriff's Office disagrees with this finding. In 2024, 42% of completed correctional officer applicants passed background checks and were ultimately hired.

F-9: The 2024-25 Yolo County Grand Jury received two complaints about female inmates being released in the middle of the night, or early hours of the morning, when public transportation is not available.

Response: The respondent agrees with this finding; however, the Board of Supervisors has limited authority in implementing transit projects as that falls under the purview of the Yolo Transportation District (YoloTD). YoloTD is Yolo County's transportation planning commission, which funds and implements capital projects and programs that affect transit infrastructure in Yolo County.

> Sheriff's Office under separate cover:
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> The Sheriff's Office shares the concern. While the Sheriff's Office cannot dictate the time of day whereupon an individual becomes eligible for release, they are provided with the option to voluntarily remain in custody until daylight hours if they so desire.

R-1:

- **While the Yolo County application process for correctional officers has recently been updated and streamlined, the 2024-25 Grand Jury suggests finding more ways to speed up the process, including but not limited to, offering the written exam more frequently than every six weeks.**
- **Utilizing eSoph for more background searches and tasks could be another potential way to speed up the hiring process.**
- **If candidates apply for a correctional officer position at other California agencies that use eSoph, consider sharing the background data to avoid replicating the search for the same data.**

Response: The recommendation regarding eSoph will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable for the reasons described in the Sheriff's Office response.

Sheriff's Office response under separate cover:

The Sheriff's Office shall continue to work closely with the Yolo County Human Resources Department to streamline the hiring process where possible and to continually evaluate the process as a whole.

Unfortunately, the sharing of background data is not a viable option. The information must be independently verified in order to maintain the integrity of the investigation. The background files are also confidential in nature. Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is a certified agency by California Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) and as such required to conduct forty-hour background checks on every applicant.

R-2:

- **The Grand Jury recommends that there are some safeguards put in place for releases that occur during the middle of the night or early morning when no public transportation is available, such as establishing a network of community volunteers who are willing to be on call to assist the individual with transportation to their destination.**
- **Additionally, the Grand Jury suggests establishing a safe place for releasees to wait inside or outside the MDF, especially when the release occurs in the middle of the night or early morning and when public transportation is not available.**

Response: The recommendation for safeguards has been implemented as described in the Sheriff's Office response.

Sheriff's Office response under separate cover:

Fortunately, safeguards are already in place. While the Sheriff's Office cannot dictate the time of day whereupon an individual becomes eligible for release, they are provided with the option to voluntarily remain in custody until daylight hours if they so desire.