

COUNTY OF EL DORADO

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August 13, 2019

Ms. Tiffany Rolson
Chair
Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission.
3974 Durock Road, Suite 205
Shingle Springs, CA 95682

Dear Ms. Rolson:

The County is in receipt of the JJDPC's 2019 inspection report for the South Lake Tahoe Juvenile Treatment Center. This letter serves as the combined response from the Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department. The Commission's findings are restated below, each followed by the County's response:

Finding 1:

The outside exercise lawn and landscaping is depressing and dirty, with long-dead sod and clods of bare mud and dirt. The space is insufficiently landscaped to accommodate Title 15 large muscle exercise under the current conditions.

County Response:

New sod will be installed in the outside exercise area. The Facilities Division has provided a cost estimate, and the project is expected to be completed this Summer at an estimated cost of \$9,000.

Finding 2:

The covered recreation space is typically very cold, as SLT JTC Temperatures annually average from 23 to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Facility construction dates back to original, turn-of-the-century approved design with large gaps between the roofline and top of the enclosure walls. The building is frequently exposed to freezing winds and snow of the High Sierras, accelerated with climate change resulting in snow through July. The space is insufficiently heated to accommodate Title 15 large muscle exercise under many conditions.

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County Response:

This space was designed as a covered outdoor area and was not intended to be an indoor space. Although the space meets standards as established by the Board of State and Community Corrections, consideration has been given to making improvements to the space to provide heat during winter months. Past estimates for climate control have exceeded \$100,000 in cost. Given the uncertainty of continued operations at the South Lake Tahoe site once the new West Slope facility has been constructed, the County must weigh such an expenditure carefully. The Facilities Division has been tasked with exploring alternative heating options and seeking estimates for purchase and installation of a reasonably priced solution. This assessment should be completed by the end of the 2019 calendar year.

The County is committed to ensuring that in-custody youth have safe and comfortable spaces in which to recreate. We appreciate the Commission's work on behalf of our youth.

Sincerely,

Sue Novasel, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

- c. Board of State and Community Corrections
Honorable Suzanne N. Kingsbury
Honorable Warren C. Stracener