

# **2007-2008 GRAND JURY REPORT**

## **California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) - Norco**

### **Background**

The Riverside County Grand Jury is authorized to investigate and report on the operations of prisons within Riverside County, as it relates to inmates. "The Grand Jury shall inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county". (Reference California Penal Code §919(b).)

California Rehabilitation Center (CRC), Norco is located within Riverside County in the City of Norco and has an inmate population of 6,052 in 2007. It is a medium level II correctional facility and part of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The facility has an annual operating budget of \$118 million and a medical budget of \$20 million.

The building, now housing CRC, was built in 1928 as a luxury hotel. In 1941 it was purchased by the federal government and converted to a Naval Hospital, then closed in November 1949. It was reopened in 1950, and closed again in 1957. In 1962 the federal government donated the site to the State of California for use as a narcotics treatment center. To ease over crowding in state prisons in the 1980s, CRC began housing felons as well as civil committed addicts.

### **Findings**

1. In compliance with California Penal Code §919(b) and in response to a complaint by an inmate, an investigation by the Grand Jury revealed that CRC staff had not properly addressed a request by an inmate for Temporary Community Leave (TCL).

Recognizing the limited scope given the Grand Jury by California Penal Code §919(b) "condition and management", it was determined that the policies and procedure of CRC were not followed by the staff of CRC.

The process to initiate TCL, Department of Corrections "Temporary Community Leave Request " (Form 601) was never initiated as required by departmental policy.

## **Recommendations**

### **Riverside County Board of Supervisors California Rehabilitation Center (CRC) - Norco**

1. Warden of CRC review and implement their policies and procedures regarding TCL and inmate welfare to ensure proper application by staff.