

Juvenile Justice Commission of San Diego County

Jails and Lockups 2024 Inspection Report

2023 Yearly Statistics (from Logbooks)

5 # **Secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

3 # **Secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

0 # **Non-secure** detentions **OVER** 6 hours

3 # **Non-secure** detentions **UNDER** 6 hours

Authority: Pursuant to Welfare & Institutions Code Section 209(b), a judge of the juvenile court shall conduct an annual inspection, either in person or through a delegated member of the appropriate county or regional juvenile justice commission, of any law enforcement facility that contains a lockup for adults which, in the preceding year, was used for the secure detention of any minor.

Please respond to sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting (type or print clearly)

Facility Name: SDCSD – Lemon Grove Substation Date of Inspection: 10/18/2024
Address: 3240 Main Street Date of Last Inspection: 11/24/2015
Lemon Grove, CA 91945 Phone Number: 619-337-2000

Facility Manager: Lt. Joseph Barry Contact Person: Dep. Dominic Russo
Phone No.: 619-337-2000 Phone No.: 619-753-3445
Staff Assisting: _____ E-mail: dominic.russo@sdsheriff.org
Phone No.: _____ Alt. Contact: _____

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Ana España
Commission Chair: Yvette D. Klepin
Phone No.: (858) 634-1555
Inspecting Commissioners: Jean Ramirez (lead), and Stephanie Ortega

I. **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

Last year, the Lemon Grove Substation sustained extensive water damage when the roof failed during a heavy rainstorm. As a result, the Lemon Grove Substation is under construction. Until construction is complete, Lemon Grove is using the Sheriff's Rancho San Diego Substation. Deputy Russo noted that construction is behind schedule and will likely not be complete until early 2025.

The Rancho San Diego Substation is a fairly modern facility, clean and well-lit. The area used for detaining youth has appropriate signage, a cement bench with a metal bar that, in combination with handcuffs, can be used to secure detained youth, a bathroom, a desk, and one-way mirror that allows deputies to observe detained youth. Bottled water, snacks and blankets are available for detainees.

Deputy Russo was very helpful. He gave the JJC inspection team a brief tour of relevant areas of the Rancho San Diego Substation and then took the team to the briefing room to review files, organized by month, reporting the secure and non-secure detention of minors in 2023. When the team had questions about a file, Deputy Russo arranged for the arresting deputy to come in from the field to answer our questions.

a. **RECOMMENDATIONS** *(if any)*:

The inspection team recommends providing deputies with a training session on how to complete the secure and non-secure forms. Deputy Russo liked the idea of a joint presentation by himself and Commission representatives. He also suggested adding a few check boxes to document certain details of juvenile detentions.

Deputy Russo should notify the state that the number of youth in secure detention during 2023 was mistakenly reported as three, but the inspection team identified eight.

The following questions are used to assess compliance with the state standards governing law enforcement facilities in which minors are held in temporary custody. See Article 9, *Minors in Temporary Custody in a Law Enforcement Facility*, Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations (15 Cal. Code Regs. §§ 1140–1151)

III. CONDITIONS OF DETENTION:

- A. Are minors provided with orientation? Yes No
- B. Are they informed of the purpose of detention? Yes No
- C. Are they told the length of time detention is expected to last? Yes No
- D. Are they informed of the six-hour maximum time limit? Yes No

IV. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION (e.g. cell/locked room):

- A. What is the proximity of minors to adult inmates?
Adults and minors are detained in separate rooms about 15 feet apart.
- B. What is the ability and frequency of staff to supervise minor?
Constant.
- C. Is there constant auditory access to staff? Yes No
- D. Are minors provided with a snack if requested? Yes No
- E. Do minors have access to toilets and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Do minors have access to a drinking fountain or water?
Water bottles are provided.
- G. Are there provisions to provide clothing or blankets to assure comfort? Yes No

V. CONDITIONS OF SECURE DETENTION OUTSIDE A LOCKED ENCLOSURE:

(this includes minors who are handcuffed to a fixed object such as a rail, bench, chair or table):

- A. Are minors assured no “contact” with adult inmates? Yes No
- B. Is there constant supervision? Yes No
- C. Is there a 30-minute limit and Watch Commander approval every 30 minutes thereafter? Yes No
- D. Are minors placed in cell when one becomes available?
Not necessarily. Deputy Russo wasn't sure, and documentation was unclear.
- E. Do minors have access to toilet and washing facilities? Yes No
- F. Is there access to a drinking fountain?
Water bottles are provided.

VI. CONDITIONS OF NON-SECURE DETENTION:

- A. Is there direct and constant supervision by staff during the entire custody period? Yes No
- B. Are males and females put in same room?
If there is space, males and females are separated.

VII. INTOXICATED MINORS:

- A. Does the facility have written procedures for the handling of minors under the influence of any intoxicating substances? Yes No

- B. Did the facility detain any minors, either secure or non-secure, determined to be under the influence of an intoxicating substance? Yes No

If yes:

1. Was medical clearance obtained? Yes No
2. Were these detentions documented? Yes No
3. If the detention was secure, were there documented safety checks no less than once every 15 minutes? Yes No
4. If the detention was non-secure, was the minor in the constant presence of staff? Yes No
5. Who provides medical clearance for these minors? [EMTs](#).

VIII. DOCUMENTATION:

- A. Are all mandated visual checks documented? Yes No
- B. Are secure/non-secure detention logs used? Yes No
- C. Do the detention logs list the offense and reason which formed the decision to place the minor in secure detention, as well as the length of time the minor was securely detained? Yes No
[Some of the documentation was unclear. For example, there was a probation-hold moved from non-secure to secure without explanation. Another case was clear due to the change of murder in a multi-offender case.](#)
- D. Does the facility have signage posted explaining the procedures for the handling of secure / non-secure detention of minors? Yes No

IX. ARE THERE INSTANCES IN WHICH A MINOR(S) WAS HELD FOR MORE THAN SIX HOURS? IF YES, LIST THE DATES, STARTING AND ENDING TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCES FOR EACH INSTANCE.

[Yes. Case involved five youth. 01/11/2023. All five charged with PC 187. Three youth stayed from 0030-1610, one stayed from 0030-1035, and one stayed from 0030-1225.](#)

X. MINORS INTERVIEWED (Comments):

[None present during inspection.](#)