



1350 Norris Road
Bakersfield, California 93308-2231

June 8, 2021

Ridgecrest Substation Court-Holding PREA Staffing Plan 2021

The Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA, standard 115.13) requires each facility operated by the agency to develop, document, and make its best effort to comply with, on a regular basis, a staffing plan that provides for adequate levels of staffing and video monitoring, where applicable, to protect inmates against sexual abuse.

Among the requirements set forth by PREA is that the agency operates its facilities using generally accepted detention and correctional practices. The Kern County Sheriff's Office (KCSO) Detentions Bureau is inspected every two years by the California Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

Note: The Ridgecrest Jail is currently being used as a Court Holding Facility, rather than a Type I Jail, and does not currently house inmates. This staffing plan reflects operations and staffing levels that would be implemented if the facility were to be reactivated as a Type I Jail.

Housing Units

The Ridgecrest Jail has a BSCC Rated Capacity of 14. The facility has three four-person cells, two single cells, one sobering cell, and one holding cell. There is a booking office and a sally-port/receiving area the leads to three hallways. [REDACTED]

When operating as a court holding facility, [REDACTED] Subjects remanded at court into the Sheriff's custody are held in the court-holding cells [REDACTED] Remanded subjects are transported to Bakersfield to be booked by transportation deputies. If the remanded subject needs medical clearance for booking, they are transported by one of the substation deputies, whether it is a court deputy or a patrol deputy. The deputy transports the remanded subject to the local hospital, obtains a booking clearance, and then transports the remanded subject to either the Mojave Jail (if appropriate) or the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

Inmate Population

When operated as a Type I Jail, the Ridgecrest Jail houses new arrestees for short term stays before they are transported to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield.

In its current operation as a Court Holding Facility, inmates at the Ridgecrest Jail are generally comprised of court holding inmates for the Ridgecrest Branch of the Kern County Superior Court.

Inmate Programs

Because inmates are at the Ridgecrest Jail for short periods of time, there are no inmate programs offered at this facility. In-Custody Programs are offered at the Lerdo Jail Facilities.

Statistics

The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse that were taken into consideration while developing this staffing plan can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.kernsheriff.org/Prea>

Staff Training

The Detentions Bureau provides training for staff in compliance with Title 15 of the California Code of Regulations. Sheriff's Deputies attend an approximately six-month Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved academy prior to working in the jail. Sheriff's Deputies assigned to jail facilities also receive an approximately five-week training program from a Detention's Training Officer. All staff, sworn and civilian, receive training on PREA requirements.

Prior to working in the jail, Detention Deputies attend a 12-week academy approved by California Standards and Training for Corrections (STC). All Detention Deputies receive an additional 24 hours of annual training. All staff, sworn and civilian, have received PREA training.

Staffing Formula

Staffing levels are determined by the number of fixed and non-fixed positions necessary to supervise and provide services to the number of inmates typically housed at the facility. Please see the staffing plan below.

Staffing Plan

The purpose of this staffing plan is to establish security staffing protocols to ensure a safe and secure environment for inmates and staff.

Video surveillance of receiving, holding cells, live scan/dress out room and hallways shall provide additional inmate safety.

Staff positions identified for security operational purpose are guidelines and shall be flexible according to facility needs.

Serious/emergency incidents or staffing may result in restricted operation of the Ridgecrest Facility.

The Ridgecrest Substation is staffed with one sergeant, one senior deputy, [REDACTED] [REDACTED] deputies and [REDACTED] court deputies. The sergeant supervises both the substation and the court-holding facility while the senior deputy manages the day to day operations of the court-holding facility. Transportation Unit deputies transport inmates to and from the county jails to the Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. The transportation deputies complete all the mandated deck checks and logging documentation.

Normal Operations: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
Y

*Night Sgt. On-duty 7 days weekly
Day Sgt. On-duty Mon-Fri

Limited Operations: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
Y

*Night Sgt. On-duty 7 days weekly
Day Sgt. On-duty Mon-Fri

Restricted Operation: Sergeant*/Senior (except weekends)

Jail Office
N

*Facility closure

Definitions:

Normal operations – Regular daily operations that occur without incident under normal procedures resulting in no staff reductions.

Limited operations – Reduction of staff or facility operations in one (1) or more areas of the facility due to a limited or unexpected event.

Restricted operations – Critical or emergency event which halts several or all facility operations and/or significant staff reduction.

Limited event – Example: tours, inspections, training.

Unexpected event – Example: ill staff, scheduling error, hospital transportation.

Critical event – Example: death, major assault, power disruption.

Emergency event – Example: natural disaster, fire, riot, civil unrest, terrorism.

In developing the above staffing plan, the Kern County Sheriff's Office in conjunction with its Detentions Bureau and Maximum-Medium Facility Manager, have considered the following factors:

- 1) *Generally accepted detention and correctional practices:* The Kern County Sheriff's Office regularly reviews updates from the National Institute of Corrections and other organizations. Kern County Sheriff's Office is a member of the American Jail Association and the National Sheriff's Association. The agency regularly networks with other jails to keep up to date and seek better ways to ensure safety and security of the facility.
- 2) *Any judicial findings of inadequacy:* The Kern County Sheriff's Office was party to a judicial ruling in Yeager v. Kern (1987) requiring the provision of specific services to pregnant and post-partum inmates.

A second judicial ruling, Anderson v. Kern (1990), mandated that the Kern County Sheriff's Office does not exceed specific population totals. Additionally, the ruling mandated certain other conditions of confinement dealing with medical, staffing levels, dental, vision, and mental healthcare, language interpreters, access to courts, and classification of administratively segregated inmates.

The applicable requirements resulting from these case have been implemented at the Ridgecrest Jail. There are no judicial findings of inadequacy specific to the Ridgecrest Jail.

- 3) *Any findings of inadequacy from Federal investigative agencies:* The Ridgecrest Jail has not received any Federal investigative findings of inadequacy.
- 4) *Any findings of inadequacy from internal or external oversight bodies:* The Sheriff's Office participates in biannual inspections from the Bureau of State Community Corrections (BSCC) to ensure compliance with the regulations contained in Title 15 and Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations. Any issues of non-compliance are corrected via a documented corrective action plan. There are no corrective action plans pending for the Ridgecrest Jail.
- 5) *All components of the facility's physical plant (including "blind-spots" or areas where staff or inmates may be isolated):* Blind spots due to physical design and opportunities for misconduct due to the staffing structure have been mitigated by the installation of a recorded surveillance system. The surveillance footage is routinely reviewed by deputies to ensure compliance with KCSO policies. There are 19 cameras total at the facility.

- 6) *The composition of the inmate population:* See above
- 7) *The number and placement of supervisory staff:* The facility supervisor is on duty primarily during the day, and often fills other shifts for staff who are off on vacation, training, or ill. Substation patrol deputies enter the facility periodically.
- 8) *Institution programs occurring on a particular shift:* As a Type I Jail or as a Court Holding Facility, there are no programs provided at the Ridgecrest Substation court-holding facility.
- 9) *Any applicable State or local laws, regulations, or standards:* There are no applicable State or local laws that specifically apply to staffing levels in a county jail. As part of the Board of State Community Corrections biennial inspections, BSCC staff reviews documentation of staffing plans for each facility.
- 10) *The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse:* The prevalence of substantiated and unsubstantiated incidents of sexual abuse that were taken into consideration while developing this staffing plan can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.kernsheriff.org/Prea>
- 11) *Any other relevant factors:* No other relevant factors were identified at the Ridgecrest Jail that affect its ability to detect, prevent, and respond to issues of sexual abuse, assault, or harassment of inmates in its care and custody.

The 2021 review did not indicate the need for adjustment to the facility's staffing level as compared to the staffing levels established in 2020. Staffing levels for the facility will remain as described in Section P-200 of DBPPM and the above-mentioned 2020 staffing plan unless revised by future review.

Sincerely,

DONNY YOUNGBLOOD, Sheriff-Coroner

By:



Ryan Wahl, Lieutenant
Northeast Area Substations Section

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ian Silva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "I" and "S".

Ian Silva, Detentions Lieutenant,
Compliance Section / PREA Coordinator