



SAN BENITO COUNTY SHERIFF

2011 ANNUAL REPORT OVERVIEW



San Benito County Sheriff's Office

451 Fourth Street

Hollister, California 95023

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www.sbcsheriff.org

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Presented by

San Benito County Sheriff's Office

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Sheriff—Coroner

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Mission Statement:

To serve the public by establishing a partnership with the community; to protect life and property, prevent crime, and solve problems.

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Overview

Per the California constitution, the Sheriff is the chief law enforcement officer in the county.

California Constitution Article 11, section 4(c):

County charter must provide for an elected Sheriff. County charters shall provide for an elected Sheriff, an elected District Attorney, an elected Assessor, and other officers, their election or appointment, compensation, terms, and removal.

California Constitution Article 13, section 35(a2):

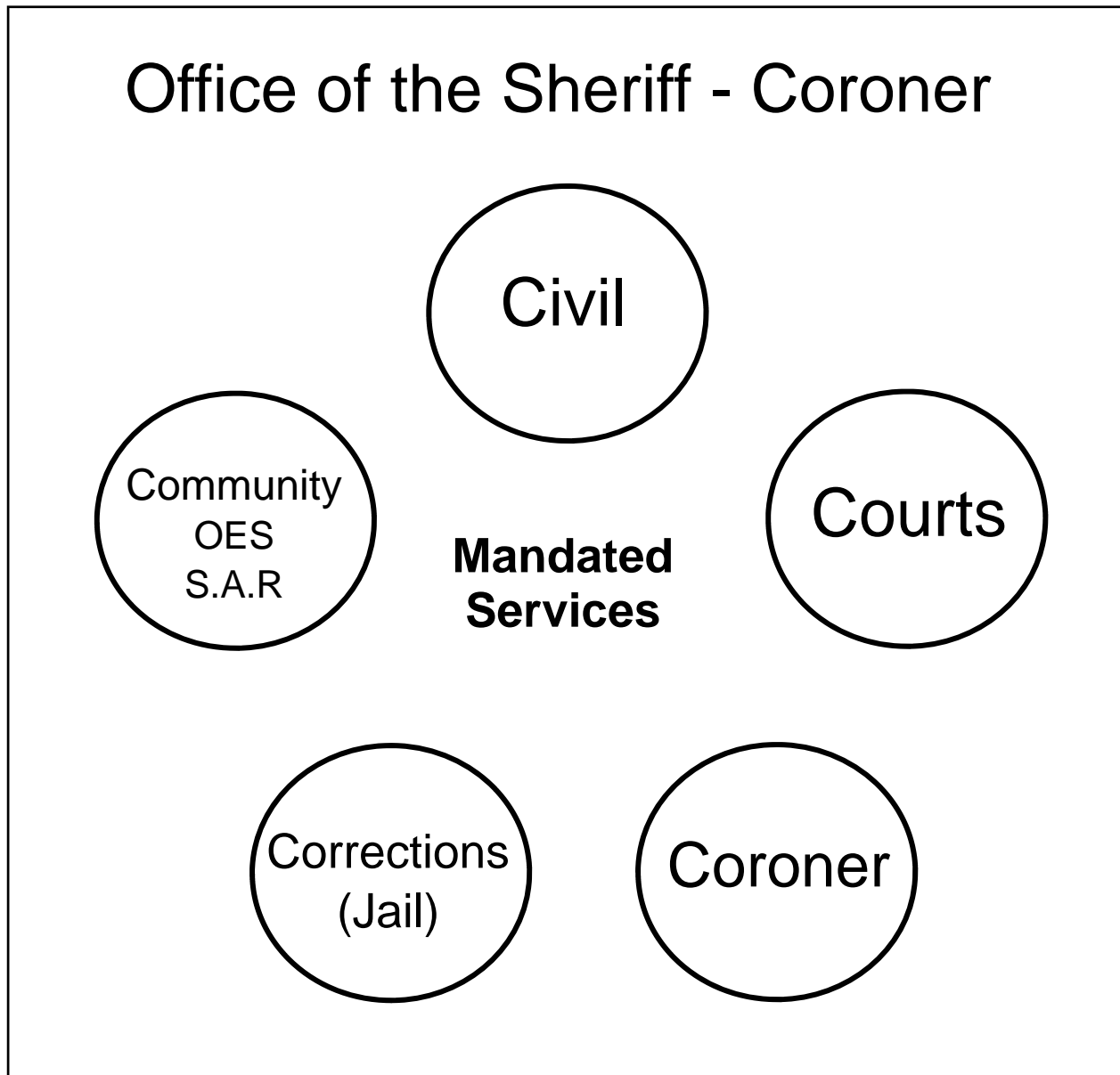
The protection of the public safety is the first responsibility of local government and local officials have an obligation to give priority to the provision of adequate public safety services.

The Sheriff's Office is **mandated** by law to provide the following services to the entire county (including the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista):

- Civil process and court document service
- C.L.E.T.S. access for all local law enforcement agencies
- Court security and bailiff service
- Coroner duties
- Corrections - Jail services and inmate transportation
- Community - Office of emergency service operations
- Community - Search & Rescue

The five “C”

Service mandates



Additional duties

The Sheriff's Office is also mandated to provide training to its employees

The State of CA Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) and the State of CA Correction Standards Authority (CSA) require annual training to maintain certification

- Some training (computer based) can be completed during the work day as time allows
- Off site training (firing range, driving, etc) is completed on an employee's day off (overtime) or by taking an employee from the workforce during a scheduled work day and running operations with one less person for that day.

The Sheriff's Office also provides the following services to the entire county (including the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista):

- Canine (K-9) support for all county law enforcement agencies
- Narcotic task force coordination (UNET)
- Patrol & law enforcement of unincorporated areas and contract cities
- Radio infrastructure for the public safety communications system
- School Resource Officers

Civil

Authority

Government Code section 26608 Duty to Serve Process and Notices:

The sheriff shall serve all process and notices in the manner prescribed by law.

Overview

With the elimination of the Marshal's office, the civil service workload was transferred to the Sheriff's Office.

- Civil papers are served by on-duty patrol Deputies as time allows
 - The Sheriff's Office does not have personnel dedicated to civil process service.
 - Each service takes an average of three attempts before a successful service is complete
 - Sheriff's Deputies saw a 300% increase in civil process services with the elimination of the Marshal's Office.
- Most civil and criminal services are time sensitive
- Civil process office workload is handled by 1.8 staff members (Civil clerks)

2011 civil processes served

- 202 Evictions
- 378 Summons
- 456 Criminal subpoenas
- 513 Court orders
- 30 Temporary restraining orders
- **Total processes served = 1,579**
 - Deputies made approximately 4,750 attempts to serve the processes.
- Approximate income from civil fees for 2011 = \$35,000
 - Not all civil process are charged fees (Court processes are not charged)

Civil

Continued

- 4,180 (88%) of the civil processes served (including attempts) were within the vicinity of the city of Hollister.
- Deputies spend time in the city of Hollister serving civil processes which takes away from the time they can spend in their communities (Aromas, Paicines, Tres Pinos and San Juan Bautista).



Courts

Authority

Government Code section 26637. Notwithstanding any other provisions of law, the sheriff shall provide bailiffing, court security, and prisoner holding in the Superior Court.

Overview

- The State of California provides the County a fixed amount of money for bailiff staffing
 - The funds have typically covered costs, however if additional staff is required (due to overtime, extra trials, etc), the County pays the difference.
- Two Deputies are assigned to bailiff duty – One in each courtroom (Dept. 1 & Dept. 2)
- One Correction Deputy is assigned to exterior courtroom security in Dept. 1
- When a jury trial is scheduled, a third Deputy is assigned to the 3rd courtroom used for the trial.
 - The third Deputy is paid overtime.
 - If the trial has enhanced security needs (homicide), an additional Deputy is assigned to the security detail
 - A corrections Deputy also accompanies the inmate while he/she is in the courtroom.

If a court Deputy is sick, on vacation or an additional Deputy is needed in court, another Deputy fills the vacancy and is paid overtime.

Coroner

Authority

California Government Code Section 27491:

It shall be the duty of the coroner to investigate..... the cause of death of any person reported to the coroner as having been killed by violence, or who has suddenly died or who has committed suicide.

Statistics

In 2011 60 Coroner cases were handled, an average of 1.25 per week

- The Sheriff assumes coroner duties because San Benito County does not have a dedicated Medical Examiner's office
- Coroner cases are investigated by Sheriff's investigators who also handle general criminal and internal investigations
- Patrol Deputies handle the preliminary investigation and then notify the on-call detectives.
- Investigators are on call 24 hours per day for coroner cases.
- The Sheriff/Coroner handles all cases in the entire county including the cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and at the hospitals.

San Benito County has a contract with Monterey County for autopsies as the County does not have a dedicated Medical Examiner.

- Autopsies cost \$2,000 each – 37 autopsies were conducted last year at a cost of \$74,000.



Jail Operations

Authority

Health & Safety code section 26605 Jails and Prisoners;

Notwithstanding any other provision of law.....the sheriff shall take charge of and be the sole and exclusive authority to keep the county jail and the prisoners in it,

County Jail bookings decrease & inmate population increases

- 2009 – **3,040** total bookings – **125** average daily population
- 2010 – **2,893** total bookings (-147) – **126** average daily population (+1)
- 2011 – **2,562** total bookings (-331) - **130** average daily population (+4)

Parolees are spending less time in jail when re-arrested due to overcrowding (they are released early)

- 2010 – **364** total parolee days
- 2011 - **325** total parolee days

The number of inmates released early to participate in work-alternative programs has also increased due to overcrowding

- 2010 – **239** inmates released to work alternative programs
- 2011 – **295** inmates released to work alternative programs



Jail Operations

Continued

Staffing

Current staffing:

- One supervisor and 4 correction deputies during the day (6am to 6pm)
- One supervisor and 3 correction deputies at night (6pm to 6am)
- Duties include
 - Intake (booking)
 - Hourly cell checks – every 15 minutes for isolation and sobering cells
 - Inmate movement (to and from exercise, shower, food, etc)
 - Conflict resolution
 - Dispensing medications to the inmates (no nurse on duty at night)

Inmate danger potential has increased

- The County jail is now housing several murder suspects and many other violent felons
- State of CA AB 109 (realignment) will bring more inmates from state prison to County jail.

The CA Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) inspection and the 2011 San Benito County Grand Jury report both identified **low staffing** as a major concern

- Supervisors have to perform line functions and are not able to supervise
- Inmate to Deputy ratio is 40 to1 which is unsafe and **below state guidelines.**

Jail Operations

Continued

Prisoner transportation

Corrections Deputies are assigned prisoner transportation duties as required

- Transport prisoners to and from court
- Act as additional court security when a high-risk inmate is on trial
- Transport prisoners to the hospital for medical treatment
- Transport prisoners to and from state prison
- Transport prisoners to and from other jail facilities for extraditions

Transportation staffing

- Multiple prisoners are scheduled for court appearances throughout each day.
- One Deputy has to transport as many as 12 inmates in a van.
 - This is a **safety issue** because there is not enough staffing for two Deputies to transport inmates
- Deputies transported 3,176 prisoners to court, hospitals and other detention facilities in 2011
- When performing high-risk transportation assignments, if a second transportation Deputy is not available, jail supervisors will assign an on-duty corrections Deputy from the jail to accompany the transportation Deputy and will run the jail with one less corrections Deputy for the duration of the transportation detail.

Community impact

The early release of state prisoners combined with the overcrowding condition in our jail puts both the Correctional Deputies and the community at risk. Prisoners frequently return to the community to commit more crimes and sometimes more violent crimes.

Other Mandated Services

Emergency Services

Authority

Government Code section 26620. Duty of Sheriff to Hold Office of Ex Officio Director of Emergency Services The office of county director of emergency services shall be held ex officio by the county sheriff.

Search & Rescue

Authority

Government Code section 26614. Authority to Perform Search and Rescue Operations The board of supervisors of a county may authorize the sheriff to search for and rescue persons who are lost or are in danger of their lives within or in the immediate vicinity of the county.

California Law Enforcement Telecommunication System—C.L.E.T.S. access

The state of CA provides the Sheriff's office in each county a connection to the Sacramento data center for electronic information access. The Sheriff is responsible for providing that access to the local law enforcement agencies in the county.

Radio infrastructure

San Benito County provides & maintains the radio infrastructure for public safety communications for the entire county including:

- Hollister Police Department
- Hollister Fire Department and AMR ambulance service
- Sheriff's Office patrol operations
- Sheriff's Office jail operations
- Medical services (ambulance-to-hospital communications)
- Search & Rescue

Canine Operations

The Sheriff provides the only canine (K-9) resources in the county

The unit consists of two dogs (German Shepard), each with their own dedicated handler

The Sheriff's Office funds the program which provides for:

- Dog food
- Veterinary care
- Ongoing training



K-9s are routinely involved in high risk, narcotic and other enforcement activity

For the 2011 Calendar year the dogs were involved in the following:

- Assisted in the arrest of 15 violent felons (San Benito County “most wanted”)
- Searched hundreds of yards and structures on alarm, prowler missing person and other calls
- Dogs have detected and located several kilos of illegal narcotics
- Assisted with sweep / searches at the local schools and in the County jail
- Assisted other law enforcement agencies in the county as needed.
- Offer K-9 assistance to any agency in the county

Community impact

The dogs not only handle enforcement assignments that directly insure a safe environment for San Benito County residents, they also serve as law enforcement ambassadors to the community.

Narcotics Enforcement

Unified Narcotics Enforcement Team (UNET)

- Joint operation with the State of CA and local law enforcement
- Funding for UNET operations comes from a federal Anti Drug Agency (ADA) grant
- Funding for Deputy salaries comes from a State multijurisdictional methamphetamine enforcement (CALMMET) grant designated for narcotics enforcement only.
- The Sheriff provides 2 deputies for the task force

UNET has made a significant crime impact

- 210 People arrested in 2011
- 65 Weapons seized in 2011
- Drugs with a street value of over \$13 Million were seized in 2011

Community impact

Without these grants, the Sheriff's Office would not be able to provide any dedicated level of narcotic enforcement which has a direct impact on the quality of life in the County as the task force is seeing more and more gang members who are selling narcotics on the street

San Juan Bautista

Contract City

- San Juan Bautista has a Deputy assigned 3 or 4 days per week for a 12 hour shift each day.
 - The San Juan Deputy works a 12 hour shift, alternating 4 days per week then 3 days per week.
 - The County receives reimbursement for the dedicated coverage
 - When the San Juan Deputy is off duty, coverage is provided by Sheriff's Deputies assigned to other parts of the County.

Calls for service in 2011

- There were 1,604 calls for service in the city of San Juan Bautista
- Deputies took 156 reports in the city.

Civil processes in 2011

- Deputies performed 199 civil process services in the city of San Juan Bautista.



Patrol Operations

Authority

Penal Code section 830.1. The authority of a sheriff, undersheriff, and deputy sheriff extends into the employing jurisdiction: As to any public offense committed, or which there is a probable cause to believe has been committed within the political subdivision (*entire county, including Hollister and San Juan Bautista*) which employs said sheriff, undersheriff or deputy sheriff.

2011 calls for service

- Beat 1 – West San Benito County – 2932 calls for service
- Beat 2 – East San Benito County – 7524 Calls for service
- Beat 3 – San Juan Bautista – 1604 calls for service
- Beat 4 – South San Benito County – 308 Calls for service
- **Total calls for service = 12,368 which is an average of 34 calls per day.**

Deputies spend an average of 32 minutes on each call which equals an average of 18.5 hours per day spent handling calls for service. (does *not* include civil process service)

- Deputies took a total of 1,822 reports in 2011
- Patrol Deputies also self-initiated 980 events in 2011. (vehicle stop, person stop, etc)

Average response time

Note: response time is directly linked to staffing levels

- Priority 1 calls for service – 9 min 51 sec
 - Immediate threat to physical safety or an in-progress felony
- Priority 2 calls for service – 11 min 52 sec
 - In-progress threat to property or non-violent crime
- All other calls for service – 24 min 49 sec
- The goal is an 8 minute response time to priority 1 calls

Patrol Operations

Continued

Community policing

In addition to all of the rural areas of the county, Deputies are responsible for law enforcement in the following communities:

- Aromas
- Bitterwater
- New Idria
- Paicines
- Panoche
- Tres Pinos
- San Juan Bautista

Deputies are also responsible for law enforcement in the following neighborhoods:

- Ashford Highlands
- Cielo Vista
- Comstock Estates
- Creekbridge
- Dunneville Estates
- Four Corners
- Heatherwood Estates
- Hidden Valley
- Holiday Estates
- Hollister Ranch Estates
- Montebello
- Oak Creek
- Quail Hollow
- Rancho Larios
- Ridgemark
- River View Estates
- Stonegate
- Union Heights
- Vineyard Estates

Patrol Operations

Continued

Current staffing

- Day shift team (6am to 6pm) – 1 supervisor & 2 Deputies
- Night shift team (6pm to 6am) – 1 supervisor, & 2 Deputies
- Deputy with K-9 splits time between day and night shift
 - K9 support is 7 days per week
- Deputies work a 12 hour shift, alternating 4 days per week then 3 days per week.

Minimum number of Deputies sent to each call

- Priority 1 calls = Two Deputies, minimum, more if it's a complex scene with evidence, prisoners, witnesses, etc
- Priority 2 calls – day shift = One Deputy.
- Priority 2 calls – night shift = Two Deputies
- One call can consume the entire patrol team. Other calls have to wait.

If a team member is absent, patrol teams go with one, or sometimes two fewer people

- The low staffing can be dangerous as back up help is either not available or a distance away.
 - Sometimes back up can be 10-15 minutes away
- Hollister PD, CHP and State Park Rangers occasionally respond for back up



Patrol Operations

Continued

Staffing Continued

Staffing (sworn) in San Benito County is far less than comparable counties in California*

County	Population	Area—Sq Miles	Sworn staff	Reserves
Lake	64,053	1,256	52	1
Tehama	63,100	2,950	75	10
San Benito	58,388	1,388	27**	3
Tuolumne	56,086	2,220	62	6
Siskiyou	46,010	6,277	80	5
Calaveras	45,870	1,020	50	5

* San Benito County’s property tax revenue—which funds public safety—is one of the lowest rates in the State and is based on a formula defined by CA Proposition 13 and CA AB-8 which has not changed since the laws were passed in 1978 and 1979. San Benito County receives \$0.11 per property tax dollar.

** 19.5 are funded by the general fund, 7 are funded through grants & contracts, 1 is vacant

Sources: US Census data and California Peace Officer Standards & Training (P.O.S.T.) data

San Benito County’s location between Salinas and Gilroy puts it in the middle of two large gang “hubs” and the crime that goes with it.

Community impact

San Benito County residents may not receive law enforcement services in the timely manner they demand due to patrol staffing

**Deputy safety is the number one priority
and concern for patrol operations**

Records

Records is the central point for all internal information flow

- Report processing
- Data entry – Internal and state / national systems
- Primary telephone answering point
- Initial civil process contact point

Public services available at the public window

- Police report copies
- Criminal record certification letters
- Vehicle release authorization
- General information
- Criminal registrant processing
- Concealed weapons permit processing

Staffing

- Two full-time records data specialists
 - The Records unit is open M-F 8-5 and is closed for holidays
- Data entry backlog is 2-4 days



School Resource Officer

Two Deputies assigned to the program – “SRO”

- One at San Benito High School
 - Handles law enforcement duties on the entire campus.
 - Security for home football games.
 - Half of SBHS is in the City and half is in the County – Nash Road is the divider.
- One splits time between Santa Ana and San Andreas Schools
 - Both schools are in the City of Hollister
- One half of their salary is paid by the schools (County Office of Education & SBHS)

Very Successful Program

- Early gang intervention
- Conflict resolution on campus before it spills out into the community

Community impact

The SROs have diffused many potentially violent and volatile situations as they have a “pulse” of what is happening on campus. Had these situations not been dealt with at school, they could have escalated into major public safety incidents. They also provide a familiar person on campus for students to be able to talk to and seek advice.



Reserves

Authority

Penal Code section 830.6(a) Reserve and Auxiliary Deputies.

Whenever any qualified person is deputized or appointed by the proper authority as a reserve or auxiliary sheriff....., the person is a peace officer, and has the powers and duties authorized in Section 830.33

Reserve Deputies

- Hired by San Benito County
- Subject to the same employment screening process as full time Deputies
- Receive the same training as full-time Deputies
- Have full California peace officer powers while on-duty
- Paid \$11.34 / hour

Assist the Sheriff's Office

- Extra court security for major trials
- Special events – Mission 10K run, Bicycle races, Traffic control,
- Supplement patrol teams
- Fill in for absent Deputies
- Assist with civil process service
- Help with other projects as needed.



Grant Funded Programs

Gang Resistance Education And Training—G.R.E.A.T.

- Grant funded program to teach elementary and middle school children gang resistance
 - Grant obtained by the Hollister School District
- Two deputies work 4-6 hours per week in the schools
 - 621 students were taught in the elementary and middle schools in 2011
- Very successful program with proven results

Agricultural Investigations

- One Deputy is assigned to educate the agricultural community and investigate agricultural crimes
- San Benito County had over \$100,000 in losses last year.
- The program is funded through a State of California grant
- The Deputy assigned is responsible for coordinating the Search and Rescue unit.
- The Deputy assigned is also responsible for patrolling the southern areas of the county

