

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 27, 2001

TO: Honorable Rodney S. Melville, Presiding Judge
S.B. County Superior Court
312-C Cook Street
Santa Maria, CA 93456

William L. Cathey, 2000-01 Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

FROM: Susan J. Gionfriddo, Chief Probation Officer

RE: RESPONSE TO 2000-01 GRAND JURY REPORT
ON JUVENILE PROBATION IN SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

cc: Honorable Clifford Anderson, Assistant Presiding Judge
Honorable Frank Ochoa, Santa Barbara Juvenile Court
Honorable Barbara Beck, Santa Maria Juvenile Court
Commissioner Art Garcia, Santa Maria Juvenile Court
Michael F. Brown, County Administrator
Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission
Probation Department Administrative Staff

I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the time and effort put forth by numerous members of your Grand Jury while learning the complexities of the justice system in general, and specifically, the operations of the Probation Department. I appreciate the commendation for Juvenile Probation Services contained in the Grand Jury Report, as well as the support expressed for our Juvenile Facilities and Programs.

Please accept the following as my official response to the 2000-01 Grand Jury Report on Juvenile Probation in Santa Barbara County, which was released on April 25, 2001:

FINDING 1: *Continuity of service of the Juvenile Probation staff is important.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The Probation Department, with the support of the County Administrator and the Board of Supervisors has made tremendous strides in increasing the compensation and establishing a career ladder within the Juvenile Institutions Officer Series in order to increase the stability of the Juvenile Institutions workforce. The results of these efforts have included a reduction in turnover and greater continuity of service.

FINDING 2: *Many new juvenile institutions staffers leave institutions work within two years.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. During the past 18 months we have experienced a turnover of fifteen Juvenile Institutions Officers out of a total of 72 allocated JIO positions. One retired, one was terminated, six resigned and seven transferred/promoted to the Deputy Probation Officer classification. This is a 15.2% annualized turnover rate but if the transfers/promotions are excluded, it is actually a 9.7% annualized turnover rate. The County of Santa Barbara overall average rate for separation from County employment is 11.2%.

RECOMMENDATION 1: *The Probation Department should consider salary increases for institutions-based Probation staff to parity with Probation Field Services levels as a factor in maintaining continuity of service.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable based on the following information: The Juvenile Institutions Officer and Deputy Probation Officer are two separate job classifications with separate minimum qualifications, educational and physical requirements and training requirements as determined by the California Board of Corrections. Through the collective bargaining process, the Union and the County agreed in May of 1999 to an equity pay adjustment that provided the Juvenile Institutions Officer classification a 11.5% increase sequenced over three years with the final installment of 3.5% scheduled to occur in October of this year. When this is fully implemented, the starting pay for Juvenile Institutions Officer will be 5% below that of Deputy Probation Officer. This type of pay differential between these classes is typical in Counties throughout the State and is reflective of the higher entry requirements for Deputy Probation Officer (BA versus 60 college units). In addition, the Juvenile Institutions Officer classification is often viewed as an entry into the Probation Officer series which tends to have more flexible hours, no shift work, and slightly higher

pay. Based on these facts and the collective bargaining process involved, it is not possible for the Department to unilaterally implement this recommendation.

RECOMMENDATION 2: *The Probation Department should consider rotating Juvenile Probation staff between institutions-based duty and field duty to deal with perceived differences in status between the two Probation services and to provide cross training.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable based on the following information:

As stated in the previous response, the Board of Corrections is the State Agency that establishes minimum qualifications, employment and training standards for Juvenile Institutions Officers and Deputy Probation Officers. They have concluded through extensive field research and testing that the two classifications are separate job classes with individualized entry requirements in terms of testing and physical standards. In addition, the two job classes have different Core Training requirements. The Juvenile Institutions Officer Core Training is 120 hours of instruction including a physical training block. The Deputy Probation Officer Core Training is 200 hours of classroom instruction. While it is encouraged and extremely valuable to the employee and the Department, cross training or transfer/promotions can only occur if the employee meets the minimum qualifications for the position regardless of pay or parity.

As mentioned previously, many Deputy Probation Officers begin their careers with the Department as Juvenile Institutions Officers. For a variety of reasons, including work schedules, shift work, the work environment and professional advancement, Juvenile Institutions Officers apply for Deputy Probation Officer positions and many of those who meet the minimum qualifications and get on the eligibility list are promoted. Some Deputy Probation Officers who meet the minimum qualifications apply for promotion to Supervising Juvenile Institutions Officer or Probation Institutions Supervisor. This cross training and movement between field services and institutions and vice versa is extremely beneficial to the employee and the Department. However, the specific recommendation relating to the rotation of staff between field services and institutions cannot be accomplished based on the restrictions imposed by the separate job classifications.

FINDING 3: *More foster homes and group homes are needed now in Santa Barbara County, and more undoubtedly will be needed in coming years.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. Approximately 70% of minors requiring placement in foster and group homes must be placed in out-of-

county placements, making family reunification efforts more difficult, and limiting access to local resources such as Multi-Integrated System of Care (MISC), Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (CPA 2000), Repeat Offender Prevention Program (ROPP), Challenge II/New Vistas, and Juvenile Drug Court. Although the total number of group and foster home placements utilized has decreased by 35% over the past two years, there are numerous minors in out-of-county placements. Also, with the initiation of the Juvenile Drug Court in October of 2000, there has already developed an increased demand to use local placement options for minors with alcohol and drug problems as opposed to the more commonly used out-of-county placements. The need for more local group and foster homes was documented in the CPA 2000 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan.

FINDING 4: *Many extra-parental placements of juveniles are out-of-County, making family support and reunification harder and denying access to community-based resources.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. All juvenile cases considered for group and foster home placements are screened by the Placement Review Committee (P.R.C.), which was established in 1995. Representatives from Probation, Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services, Social Services, schools, and other local partners assist in reviewing cases. P.R.C. ensures that all viable options within the community are considered prior to recommending removal from the home. A psychological assessment is usually available at this multi-agency case conference and consideration is given to finding the best placement option that meets the needs of the minor and family as well as the minor's risk level to the community. Some of these minors are considered to be seriously emotionally disturbed requiring careful placement consideration. Also, some of these youth require on-site education services which do not exist in most local placements. However, there is no doubt that family support and reunification and the use of community-based resources would be enhanced with local placements. To enhance reunification, the Probation Department has improved Aftercare Services to minors returning home from extra-parental placement with Challenge I and CPA 2000 funding. A variety of services including drug and alcohol treatment, relapse prevention, life skills, and pre-employment training are provided. A Transition Probation School in Santa Maria is also funded.

FINDING 5: *Many of the issues that lead to delinquent behavior among female offenders—for example, high rates of physical and sexual victimization—are not effectively addressed in coeducational or English only settings.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. High rates of physical and sexual victimization exist among female offenders referred to the Probation

Department. The availability of gender appropriate services has improved with the advent of Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP), Challenge I and II, MISC, and Juvenile Drug Court. After screening and assessment, female offenders receive a case plan encouraging referrals to programs such as Positive Relationship Group with Shelter Services for Women, Las Comadres with Community Action Commission, Making Choices with Girls Inc., Teenage Parenting Program (TAPP), Healthy Teen Parenting Collaborative with the Boys' and Girls' Club, and counseling sessions specific to female participants in the Juvenile Drug Court. MISC's therapeutic foster home program in the Santa Maria Valley continues to grow and has added beds specifically for girls. We continue to collaborate with our community-based partner agencies to find gender specific resources.

In addition, the Challenge II/New Vistas Program in Santa Barbara funds a gender specific component in collaboration with Girls Inc. Making Choices, a life skills training to age appropriate girls and boys, is a curriculum that contains 96 activities that address the realities of adolescent development, including health, parenting, skill development, decision-making, refusal skills, risk and protection, violence and personal safety, career and life planning, leadership and community action, from a gender equity perspective. Young women are matched with an adult female mentor from the community who joins them for Making Choices classes and develops a supportive relationship that includes job shadowing and other skills based activities. Female offenders in the New Vistas Program are also offered a unique after school program called Word Up presented by Speaking of Stories. The program uses creative writing combined with theater, music, and movement. As a therapeutic intervention, the objective is to engage the participants dynamically through all these media and help keep them off the streets and away from alcohol, drugs, and violent behaviors. This exposure to the arts, combined with some carefully selected psychotherapeutic interventions will offer these alienated young women constructive alternatives to release their anger and express other emotions.

Two public health nurses work on the New Vistas Neighborhood Supervision Team. They provide a valuable resource for female clients, who often need assistance with reproductive health issues, pregnancy and STD prevention, and other gender specific health concerns. In addition, four family coaches work on the New Vistas Neighborhood Supervision Team. Two are bi-cultural, bi-lingual women and have established linkages with existing female-specific services such as the Teenage Parenting Project for Pregnant Teens, Shelter Services for Women, Rape Crisis Center, CALM (treat victims of sexual abuse) and other programs.

Moreover, in partnership with the Probation Department, the Gevirtz Research Center (UCSB Graduate School of Education) is now developing a gender appropriate assessment tool that provides specific

information regarding individual youths' assets and risks. The intended use is to better identify levels of supervision and appropriate treatment services for both females and males.

Girls Inc. sponsored three symposiums in 2000-2001 entitled "Girls on Probation". At these symposiums, each attended by 60-100 community representatives, the needs, barriers, and resources available to girls on Probation were shared. A web site featuring this information is in the planning stages.

Therefore, I concur with the need to further develop services specific to female offenders that include settings that are not co-educational or English-only. The occurrence of non-English speaking female probationers is rare, however, resources need to be available when needed.

FINDING 6: *More placement and treatment programs – particularly female specific programs—are needed for female juveniles in view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The Probation Department operates three co-educational Counseling and Education Centers with sites in Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Barbara. The percentage of females committed to the CEC's has increased from 16% in 1996 to almost 36% in 2000. After the loss of the La Morada residential setting for girls in the late 1970's due to budget constraints, the Santa Barbara County Probation Department has not had the fiscal resources to operate a separate girls residential treatment program. Five years ago, Probation and the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services Department collaborated with St. Vincent's to develop a local treatment facility for girls. The County Office of Education provided an on-site school. The envisioned program could not be sustained solely from referrals from Santa Barbara County and the bed capacity was scaled back due to the ebb and flow of referrals. We currently place female offenders at St. Vincent's and will continue to support this program. Staff have been meeting with administrators from Sweeney Group Homes concerning the placement of female offenders in their group home for girls in the Santa Maria Valley. There is currently a substantial waiting list for placement in this facility as other Probation Departments also place there.

In addition, Teen Court has been an effective diversion program for first time female offenders. In 2000, 28% of Teen Court referrals by the Probation Department were female. These female offenders are judged by their peers and given a disposition which may include jury duty, public service work, restitution or counseling. Teen Court staff report that they are seeing a higher level of risk and need among clients that are not revealed in initial Probation Assessments, but surface during the Teen

Court process. Teen Court staff are in the process of developing program enhancements to address specific needs of these clients. Of note is that 88% of minors who complete the Teen Court program have had no further contact with law enforcement within the one-year follow-up period.

Furthermore, the percentage of females on Informal Probation increased substantially, from 24% in 1996 to 35% in 1998. At present, the number of females on Probation is remaining stable, while the number of males is actually decreasing. Another trend is the increased proportion of juvenile violent crimes committed by female offenders. Over the past four years, the number of violent crimes committed by male offenders has decreased, but we have not seen the same improvement among females. As a result, the proportion of female referrals for juvenile violent crime has increased. Four years ago, female offenders represented 20% of referrals for violent crimes; that portion has now increased to 28%. North Santa Barbara County also has one of the higher teen pregnancy rates in the state, pointing to a female population that is at risk. The CPA 2000 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice plan identified gender-specific programming for female offenders as a major prevention and treatment need. The following was stated:

- Increasing number of female crimes against persons and in the area of substance abuse point to a need for specialized programming for females.
- Shortage of local treatment options for juvenile female offenders leads to out-of-home placements.
- Out-of-home placements are costly and restrict involvement of the parents in the treatment process. Local programming allows for treatment services to be extended to the entire family.
- Cost effective in-county treatment programs and services will maximize available dollars.

RECOMMENDATION 3a: *The Probation Department should continue to share resources with the Social Services Department to recruit additional foster families and host families.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented in that the Probation Department will continue to share resources with the Social Services Department to recruit additional foster families and host families.

The Department of Social Services is staffed to recruit local foster homes. The Probation Department, however, has a vital stake in the recruitment of such local resources. As recently as December 2000, efforts by the Probation Department and by a professional non-profit agency over twelve months to recruit, train, and supervise foster families living on the South Coast were unsuccessful. Many foster parents prefer to take in younger children rather than older children on Probation. More success in this

endeavor is anticipated as we increase our partnerships with the community.

Probation and Department of Social Services staff recently participated in a Family-to-Family conference hosted by the Stuart and Annie Casey Foundations in Santa Barbara to analyze the recruitment and retention of foster homes. It is evident that government agencies will need to apprise the community of the dire need for keeping their children in local placements. Partnerships with the community will need to be strengthened if local foster family resources are to be augmented.

RECOMMENDATION 3b: *The Probation Department should continue collaborations with professionals in the County Departments of Public Health, Social Services, and ADMHS, as well as County and municipal schools and community-based non-profit organizations, to develop and enhance female-specific programs.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented, and the Probation Department will continue its collaborative efforts to enhance female-specific programs. The Probation Department has completed a two-year strategic planning process to implement community supervision throughout the county in both the adult and juvenile field services. This family focused, neighborhood approach to delivering services is similar to community policing in identifying community assets and making them part of the service delivery process. As such, female-specific programs will continue to be a priority requiring a collaborative approach between public and private agencies and the community as a whole. The lessons learned from OCAP, Challenge I and II, MISC, and Juvenile Drug Court relative to female-specific programs will be built upon. Evaluation data supplied by UCSB will have a major impact in improving services specific to female offenders.

RECOMMENDATION 4: *In view of the increased numbers of female juvenile offenders, the Probation Department should develop more female-specific placement and treatment programs.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation requires further analysis. Female-specific programs are contained to some degree in the OCAP, MISC, Challenge I and II, and Juvenile Drug Court programming. Efforts will continue to be made to fully utilize St. Vincent's and Sweeney Group Homes for girls in the Santa Maria Valley. The Probation Department will continue to work with the Department of Social Services to recruit and retain local foster homes to accommodate female offenders. To avoid duplication of services, more analysis needs to be done regarding female-specific placements. For example, are more group home beds needed for girls than foster home beds? What is the projected growth in female offenders in our local Juvenile Justice System? In 1996, 22 females were placed in out-of-home placements; in 2000, the number was 23.

Another area of analysis involves the Counseling and Education Centers. In 1996, 23 girls were placed in the Counseling and Education Centers. In 2000, 48 girls were placed there. In the next 6 months, we will assess how the CEC's can become more female-specific in their programming. The same is true of MISC services. In 1996, 23 females received MISC services, and 54 received MISC services in 2000. Over the next 6 months, we will meet with our MISC partners to assess the need for more female-specific programming.

RECOMMENDATION 5: *The Probation Department should establish and maintain links with female-specific community-based services for non-English female juveniles.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. The Probation Department will continue to maintain links with female-specific community-based services for non-English speaking female juveniles. We make every effort to employ bi-lingual staff and partner with agencies with Spanish speaking resources. The occurrence of non-English speaking females who are on Probation is occasional. However, this resource should be available when the need occurs.

RECOMMENDATION 6: *The Probation Department should identify and develop female-specific treatment programs with, as well as without, housing.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. The CPA 2000 Comprehensive Multi-agency Juvenile Justice Plan has identified the need for gender-specific programming for juvenile females. It specifically refers to the shortage of local treatment options for juvenile female offenders that usually lead to out-of-home placement. It also notes that the increasing number of female crimes against persons and in the area of substance abuse points to a need for specialized programming for females. Local placement options for both genders need continuing exploration, with specific attention given to female placements.

FINDING 7: *An additional 30 beds were provided at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall in December 2000, and 90 more beds are planned by 2004. The 90 additional beds should accommodate the anticipated increase in juvenile hall housing needs for the County to the year 2015.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The 30-bed addition to the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, funded by a \$1,000,000 Board of Corrections Grant and County match, was opened in December of 1999 and this provided immediate relief to our severe juvenile hall overcrowding. The 90-bed expansion of the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, funded by an \$8,040,000 Board of Corrections Grant and \$4 million County match is planned for

occupancy in July 2004. The expansion will have a phased-in occupancy as the juvenile detention population grows and it is expected to meet the detention bed needs projected through 2015.

RECOMMENDATION 7: *The Board of Supervisors and the Probation Department should assure that the planned addition of 90 beds at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall is fulfilled in order to accommodate the County's needs for juvenile institutional housing to the year 2015.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented. The County has committed and developed the funding for a \$4,000,000 match for this project. The project timetable is currently on schedule with the Design Development phase nearly completed. In addition, the required CEQA/NEPA Report is nearly completed and will be available for public review within 60 days (August 2001).

FINDING 8: *The building needs to be updated in a variety of ways that probably would cost less than replacement of the entire facility.*

RESPONSE: I agree with the finding. Consistent with this finding, the Probation Department recently submitted a Grant to the Board of Corrections in the amount of \$3,500,000 in order to renovate the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall facility and correct many of its deficiencies. This Grant was not funded in the initial allocation of State and Federal Construction Funds, as priority was given to projects that provide capacity expansion. The cost of a complete replacement of this facility has been projected at \$15 million.

RECOMMENDATION 8a: *Assess the fuel supply to the emergency generator.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented. An assessment of the fuel supply for the two generators serving the facility has been completed by General Service's staff. Both generators are fueled by natural gas through commercial underground lines that require dependence on off-site natural gas supplies. The power supplied by the generators is adequate for the emergency power needs of the facility, and all lights and electrical outlets served by the generators have been marked accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION 8b: *Assess the emergency generator's capacity to supply adequate emergency power.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented. See response to recommendation 8a.

RECOMMENDATION 8c: *The electronic security system should be upgraded.*

RECOMMENDATION 8d: *Toilets and washbasins should be installed in nine rooms in Unit 2 and seven rooms in Unit3.*

RECOMMENDATION 8e: *In concert with the bathroom construction, the water supply and sewer lines to the mains on the North side of Highway 101 should be replaced with new lines to the mains on nearby Hollister Avenue.*

RECOMMENDATION 8f: *Construct an additional classroom now to enable this facility to handle current needs and prepare for anticipated growth.*

RESPONSE: Recommendations 8c, 8d, 8e and 8f will not be implemented pending the development of a financing plan. Over the past several years, the structural, electrical, plumbing, security and space needs of the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall have been thoroughly evaluated by General Service's staff, Probation Department staff, numerous inspecting bodies and two independent contractors and structural engineers. These evaluations were conducted to assess the long-term capital improvement and deferred maintenance needs of a 50+ year-old facility for planning purposes. These needs assessments were also required in order to make competitive applications for State and Federal Grant funding that was available to address both new construction and the renovation of aging facilities in the absence of available General Fund Dollars at the County level. All of the recommendations are consistent with the assessments that have been completed and would greatly enhance safety and security of the facility and they would significantly extend the usable life of the facility for 20 to 30 years. The Grant Application previously mentioned encompasses all of the recommendations but has not been funded by the Board of Corrections based on a policy decision to fund only those projects that add a significant number of beds. This policy may change as additional funds become available or if currently funded projects cannot be completed. All of the recommendations are contained in the County's Capital Improvement Plan but have not been funded. Until renovation or re-building of the facility can be realized, the maintenance needs of the facility will continue to be addressed by the Probation Department and General Services to ensure that the facility remains in full compliance with all applicable standards, including those proscribed by Title 15 and 24 of the California Code, which are regulated through inspections by the Board of Corrections.

FINDING 9: *The same entrance from the parking lot into the facility is used by visitors and personnel, as well as for intake and release of juveniles.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The design of this facility is outdated and the intake, release and visitor entrances are poorly designed for the type of detainees that are currently housed in the Juvenile Halls.

RECOMMENDATION 9: *A separate, secure entrance solely for the intake and release of juveniles should be constructed.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented pending the development of a financing plan. Refer to response for Recommendations 8c, 8d, 8e and 8 f.

FINDING 10: *All food preparation for juveniles is contracted for and prepared off-site.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with the finding. Lunches and dinners are prepared off-site by a contract agency. Juvenile Hall staff assemble a simple breakfast which includes items such as cereal, fresh fruit, milk/juice and bakery goods from bulk supplies delivered to the Hall by various vendors. Food services at the Juvenile Hall are overseen by the Camp Food Services Supervisor.

FINDING 11: *A full industrial kitchen (except for a dishwashing machine) is unused at the facility, except to store packaged foodstuffs for off-hour snacks for the detainees.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. The stove in the kitchen at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall is not operable as the gas line has been removed and capped. The walk-in freezer is also inoperable and is used for the storage of dry goods. Most workable kitchen items were relocated to the Boys' Camp when the new Kitchen/Dining Room was constructed in 1994. Existing kitchen space and equipment (preparation tables, sinks and steam table) are currently used in food prep and assembly. The kitchen is currently equipped to handle emergency food preparation with the use of portable propane stoves and emergency food rations.

RECOMMENDATION 10: *A dishwashing machine should be acquired to enable the existing kitchen facilities to be utilized for vocational training of the juveniles.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. This issue has been discussed on numerous occasions. A full service kitchen at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall was abandoned in 1992 as a result of budget reductions and it proved to be more cost-effective to have meals brought to the facility from outside vendors. The cost of food service staff including a Chef and two Cooks was expensive and they were reduced as a result of these dire budget cuts. Currently the Hall has a .5 FTE Food Service Worker assigned to coordinate the food supply needs and the assembly of dinner meals which are prepared in bulk at the Jail. Lunch is prepared by vendor contract with the Community Action Commission and delivered to the Hall. The Food Services Supervisor at the Boys' Camp supervises the food services needs of all juvenile facilities. Thus, with the current operation in place there is no need for a dishwasher in the kitchen area. While the concept of vocational training of the juveniles is sound, it is not feasible for most Juvenile Hall detainees because of the relatively short confinement time (average

length of stay is 18 days). In contrast, youth at the Camps (L.P.B.C. and T.C.B.C.) can readily participate in such training at the kitchen as they stay 3-7 months.

RECOMMENDATION 11: *Part of the 1600 square foot space should be reorganized so that it can serve some daily space needs—for example, for juvenile programs and staff meetings—while being available for vocational training.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Large sections of the kitchen area at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall are already in use for non-food related institutional supplies which became necessary when space previously used for dry storage was converted to office space which in turn freed up valuable space for use as a second interview room and attorney conference room. A complete analysis of the kitchen area was conducted in 1999 by the Architectural Firm Hellmuth, Obata and Kassabaum, Inc. and they concluded that the current use of the kitchen for food preparation and the food loading access requirements make conversion of the area to a conference/training room problematic.

FINDING 12: *The industrial kitchen is a resource that could serve for emergency meal preparation for staff and residents in this facility, in the nearby La Morada Sheriff's facility, and in the Santa Barbara Main Jail. Emergency food supplies are available at the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County, a short distance from the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall.*

RESPONSE: I disagree with this finding. As currently equipped, the kitchen does not have the necessary capability to serve as an emergency kitchen for the Jail and/or La Morada. In order for this kitchen to serve this function extensive equipment purchases and repairs would have to be completed. The emergency food supplies at the Food Bank are available to private citizens and would be accessed by Probation in only the most dire emergency.

RECOMMENDATION 12: *An analysis should be made to determine the feasibility of setting up this kitchen for use in emergencies and as a vocational venue*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. There is no demonstrable need for an emergency back-up kitchen for La Morada or the Main Jail. An emergency food plan for the Juvenile Hall is already in place. Since a restoration to a full service kitchen is not a necessity for the current population level at the Juvenile Hall, equipment purchases required to bring the area back to a full service kitchen are not warranted. Without a full service kitchen, it cannot serve as a “vocational venue”. Also, as stated in the response to Recommendation

10, the relatively short detention time for our population isn't conducive to formal training classes.

FINDING 13: *The November 1996 NEPA/CEQU report noted a loss of water from the supply loop serving the five housing units at the Los Prietos Boys' Campsite*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. This "excess water use" was noted in the report.

FINDING 14: *In the report it was noted that, of 11,000 gallons average pumped per day for use by the camps and the houses, the five Probation staff houses were metered at 7,000 gallons per day, suggesting a serious leak in the system.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. This level of usage was noted in the above-referenced NEPA/CEQU report dated September 1996.

RECOMMENDATION 13: *The Camps should continue programs to economize on their use of water, a precious resource in this fire-prone area. Water leaks should be promptly identified and repaired.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation has been implemented. All reported water leaks have been repaired promptly. Since 1997, the water usage of the Camp residences/facilities have been monitored on a monthly basis and the average daily usage for the residences is 850 gallons per day. Total facility usage has not exceeded 240,000 gallons per month per agreement with the US Forest Service.

RECOMMENDATION 14: *The Camps should immediately carry out their proposed plan to re-sleeve the existing water lines.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation requires further analysis. The Probation Department is working with the General Services Department to review the condition of the water line in order to determine if it requires complete replacement via re-trenching, re-sleeving the line through the existing line or if the line is in such condition that it requires no further action. General Services has contracted with an Engineer to perform this analysis and the report concluded that re-trenching would be the most cost-effective alternative.

FINDING 15a: *The Forest Service plans to begin construction bidding of the expanded project at the First Crossing site on July 1, 2001.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The Forest Service has recently confirmed that they are moving forward on this project as indicated at a meeting on May 1, 2001 attended by Probation and General Services staff.

FINDING 15b: *Court-mandated rehabilitation programs at Los Prietos Boys' Camp and the Tri-Counties Boot Camp are at risk of being compromised by the close presence of recreational revelry possibly within sight and almost certainly within hearing range of the inmates.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The distractions and access issues presented by high-density recreational usage in this close proximity to the facility can compromise the security of the Camp Programs without significant mitigation measures.

FINDING 15c: *The current number of day-use sites (five) and picnic seating (804) in the Los Padres National Forest along Paradise Road appears to be sufficient for the current number of visitors even without the addition of the eight to 12 planned and permitted picnic sites for an additional 128 to 288 people at First Crossing, let alone the expanded 15-site development plan for 240 to 360 people.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. Current plans for the First Crossing site have been reviewed and they include 9 developed picnic sites in Phase I of this project. Additional picnic sites and parking are planned subsequent to the removal of the staff residences by December of 2003. Except during Summer Holidays and high use weekends, there does not appear to be a high utilization level for the currently available day-use and picnic sites.

FINDING 15d: *The current recreational uses of the site (for fishing and bicycle trip staging) could be impacted adversely by the traffic and noise of the intended First Crossing area.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. Current use of the site is quite passive with parking for fishing and biking.

FINDING 15 e: *The Forest Service's July 1998 signed Environmental Assessment for the First Crossing picnic area was based on a maximum of 12 picnic sites serving 16-24 people each.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15f: *Subsequently, the Forest Service has repeatedly stated that they plan for 15 sites, an increase of 25% over the maximum of sites evaluated in the Environmental Assessment, apparently further environmental assessment.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. The Forest Service has presented a number of alternative plans for this site. The current Phase I plan presented to the Probation Department will have 9 picnic sites. Plans for Phase II have not been reviewed.

FINDING 15g: *The additional motor traffic destined for the First Crossing picnic area and the additional commuting that would be needed by the five relocated Probation staff has not been factored in the 1995 Environmental Assessment.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. The Environmental Review conducted by the Forest Service assesses impacts to Cultural Resources, Endangered or Threatened Species, Vegetation and Wildlife. Traffic or air quality impacts did not appear to be included.

FINDING 15h: *No air quality assessments were done, nor were mitigation concerns formulated, for the additional traffic and the new barbecues planned for the First Crossing site.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. See response to Finding 15g.

FINDING 15i: *Under the original 1973 agreement, as amended, between Forest Service and County, the five staff houses are slated for demolition and the area cleared and returned "near natural state" prior to December 31, 2003.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15j: *The original 1973 agreement between the Forest Service and the County is amendable.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15k: *Draft Forest Service plans shown to the Grand Jury indicated that three of the 15 proposed picnic sites are to occupy the area where the five staff houses now stand.*

RESPONSE: I am unable to respond to this finding. County staff were not present when these plans were shown to the Grand Jury.

FINDING 15l: *Eliminating the three proposed picnic sites not evaluated in the Environmental Assessment would obviate the need to demolish the five houses and still provide sufficient numbers of picnic sites at that location.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. Sufficient picnic sites could be provided without the demolition of the staff houses. However, a Conditional Use Permit remains in effect, which requires the County to remove these staff houses by December 31, 2003.

FINDING 15m: *The demolition and cartage of staff housing mandated by the Forest Service would be at County expense, estimated at \$36,000 to \$76,000, a range based in part on an estimate of tippage costs. These funds would have to be allocated well before the December 31, 2003 deadline for compliance*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15n: *The loss of any housing within the County is regrettable.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. In particular these houses are a vital resource for the Camp Programs as they provide for readily available staff resources when emergency situations occur.

FINDING 15o: *The demolition of these houses would be an unfortunate loss of valuable and scarce County resource under the control of the Forest Service.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding. However, the County is operating the Camp Programs under a Conditional Use Permit with the Forest Service that requires, per agreement, the removal of the houses by December 31, 2003.

FINDING 15p: *The buffer provided by the presence of the five staff families from the Probation Department in the existing houses enhances security in the area and also inhibits access between the proposed recreation area and the Camps.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15q: *Expanding the area from 12 to 15 picnic sites would put added oversight responsibility on the existing Forest Service staff and could create a need for additional Sheriff's Department law enforcement, which could be costly to the County.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. As noted in response to Finding 15c, the Phase I plans indicate 9 picnic sites.

FINDING 15r: *Rocky Mountain Recreation Company employees (as any Forest Service concessionaire employees) are not sworn peace officers.*

RESPONSE: I agree with this finding.

FINDING 15s: *The development proposed for the First Crossing does not appear to be presently necessary. The Forest Service can encourage increased recreational use of the Santa Ynez River area of the Los Padres National Forest without the development proposed for First Crossing.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. Under normal usage, there does not appear to be a high demand for additional picnic areas in the forest. However, in peak season and holiday weekends, there are occasional crowded conditions.

RECOMMENDATION 15a: *The Probation Department should renew its efforts to retain use of the five houses.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. On May 1, 2001 representatives of the Probation Department and County General Services met with the District Ranger and her staff regarding the First River Crossing project. In the course of the meeting a direct inquiry was made regarding the potential of retaining these staff houses. The District Ranger reiterated the position of the Forest Service that the County will be expected to comply with the terms of their Conditional Use Permit which includes the provision that all staff housing be removed by December 31, 2003.

RECOMMENDATION 15b: *The Probation Department should present to the Board of Supervisors a status report listing anticipated problems stemming from the Forest Service's First Crossing development plans.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has not yet been implemented. As mentioned in the Response to Recommendation 14, an analysis of the options and costs relating to the water lines has been completed. Funding for this project has been identified by General Services. As other aspects of this project anticipated to have a significant negative impact on County programs and services are identified, they will be brought to the attention of the Board of Supervisors along with recommended solutions.

RECOMMENDATION 15c: *The Probation Department should encourage the Board of Supervisors to request that the Forest Service stay within the (environmentally assessed) original number of 12 picnic sites.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented. As previously reported, there are 9 picnic sites in Phase I of the First Crossing project. The Grand Jury has indicated that three additional sites are planned for a future Phase II development at this location. There do not appear to be any plans to exceed the stated 12-site limitation.

RECOMMENDATION 15d: *The Probation Department should request the Board of Supervisors to express its views concerning the problems related to the proposed expansion in a letter to the Forest Service's Los Padres District Ranger.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will be implemented consistent with the Response to Recommendation 15b.

RECOMMENDATION 15e: *In the event of an inadequate response from the local Forest Service, the Board of Supervisors and the County Administrator should communicate directly with the 22nd Congressional District Representative. Additionally the Forest Service officials listed below should be requested to review and, if necessary investigate the issue:*

*Los Padres District Ranger
US Forest Services, Pacific Southwest Region*

Chief, USDA Forest Service, Washington, DC
United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC

RESPONSE: This recommendation has not yet been implemented, as it is dependent on the outcome of actions suggested in Recommendation 15b & 15d. It should be noted that numerous contacts with 22nd Congressional District Representatives have already taken place. On February 22, 2001, Probation staff met with Congresswoman Lois Capps to discuss this and other issues relating to the federal government. Follow-up contacts with her staff have continued in order to review this project.

FINDING 16: *In the event the First Crossing development goes forward as currently planned, the Sheriff's Department will need to augment its oversight of the enlarged picnic area.*

RESPONSE: I partially agree with this finding. The increased usage of this area may require greater oversight by law enforcement, but the level of augmentation of services provided by the Sheriff's Office will require further analysis.

RECOMMENDATION 16: *The Probation department should complete the perimeter fencing, at least on the north side of the Camps facing the proposed picnic area. Plants should be established to screen and deter access. Also, sight lines from the picnic sites, parking area, and the Santa Ynez River should be fully blocked.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation requires further analysis. The Probation Department has previously requested and been denied permission by the Forest Service to install 8-10 foot chain link security fencing on the perimeter of the Camp facility. This matter will again be addressed in the August 2001 Annual Maintenance Operation Plan submitted to the Forest Service. In addition, the installation of native plants for privacy protection will be analyzed and addressed if deemed necessary.

FINDING 17: *If Recommendations 15c, 15d, and 15e do not result in assurances that the concerns expressed will be mitigated, additional County funds needed in the first year are estimated at from \$200,000 to \$240,000.*

RESPONSE: I partially disagree with this finding. The fiscal projections contained in the finding are premature. Further analysis will be required to project full costs for the variety of challenges presented.

RECOMMENDATION 17: *The Board of Supervisors should plan to allocate County funds to provide for:*

- *Demolition and cartage of the five staff houses (estimated at \$36,000 to \$76,000).*

- *Extra juvenile probation staff at the Camps (estimated at \$104,000/year), and*
- *Additional Sheriff's Department law enforcement on Paradise Road (estimate at \$60,000/year).*

RESPONSE: This recommendation requires further analysis. The demolition and cartage costs have been included in the County Capital Improvement Plan. However, no funding has been allocated for this project. Additional staffing cost impacts for the Probation Department relating to the loss of the staff housing and any additional impacts to the Sheriff's Office will require further analysis during the budget cycle for FY 2002/03.

SJG/cac