

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 28, 2003

TO: Honorable Clifford R. Anderson III, Presiding Judge
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
118 E. Figueroa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

William M. Anderson, 2002-2003 Grand Jury Foreperson
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93121

FROM: Susan J. Gionfriddo, Chief Probation Officer

RE: RESPONSE TO 2002-2003 SANTA BARBARA COUNTY
GRAND JURY REPORT ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE
DETENTION FACILITIES

Cc: Honorable Rodney S. Melville, Assistant Presiding Judge
Honorable Barbara J. Beck, Presiding Juvenile Court Judge
Michael F. Brown, Santa Barbara County Administrator
Juvenile Justice/Delinquency Prevention Commission
Probation Department Administrative Staff

I would like to express my appreciation to the 2002-2003 Grand Jury for recognizing and commending staff in our Juvenile Detention Facilities. Your input in improving the service delivery and security in our facilities is also very much appreciated.

**Isla Vista Foot Patrol
Findings and Recommendations**

FINDING 7: *After the weekend parties and holiday celebrations there is a huge amount of rubbish to be cleaned up at taxpayer expense.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 7 (a): *Impose community service sentences on those arrested.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented in part. Community Service Work hours are ordered by the Courts or probation officers to adults and juveniles in lieu of fines or as a condition of probation. The Community Service Work Program is operated by the Probation Department and assigns offenders to public or non-profit worksites to complete their obligation. In South County there are currently 78 approved worksites that receive and supervise offenders. Offenders currently look at the list of worksites and select their top 3 choices based on the type of work schedules and location. Offenders are normally not ordered to a specific worksite by the Court or probation officer. Our Community Service Work Program coordinator assigns the offender to one of their three choices based on availability. The worksite is responsible for scheduling and supervising the offender. At least 5 of the 78 work sites in South County are in the Isla Vista area and have some cleanup duties. Those sites include: Goleta Beach, Isla Vista Parks and Recreation; Isla Vista Youth Project; Isla Vista Teen Center; and Isla Vista Adopt a Block. In 2002, a total of 112 offenders were assigned to complete 5,645 hours of community service work through those 5 organizations in the Isla Vista area.

RECOMMENDATION 7 (b): *Use inmates from the Honor Farm and or Juvenile Hall to assist in the clean up. This would be an alternative to using County/Private Services.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented by the Probation Department. The Juvenile Hall Weekend Work Program, a non-mandated juvenile offender work program, was discontinued on July 1, 2002 as a budget reduction. The Probation Department hopes to reinstate this program when state and local budget conditions improve.

**Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall
Findings and Recommendations**

FINDING 21: *Two staff members must accompany a dry room occupant to the bathroom at night leaving only one staff member available.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 21: *Increase the staff on that shift by at least one.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. Title 15 California Code of Regulations, Minimum Standards for Local Juvenile facilities, Section 1321 (c) (1) (B) states: “Staffing shall be in compliance with a minimum child-staff ratio for the following facility types: Juvenile Halls and Special Purpose Juvenile Halls – during the hours that minors are asleep, one wide-awake child supervision staff member on duty for each 30 minors in detention”. The posting of three (3) staff members on the graveyard shift at the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall (SBJH) for a 56 bed juvenile facility is in compliance with Section 1321. One staff member is posted in each living unit to ensure safety and maintain proper security. Minors who present security concerns are not generally housed in dry rooms. When a minor in a dry room needs to be escorted to the unit restroom facilities, two staff members are always in the immediate supervision area during escort. The escort of a minor by staff from the minor’s room to the restroom facilities takes between one and two minutes. Management at the SBJH always has the option to call in additional staffing on the graveyard shift whenever security concerns arise.

FINDING 22: *Nine rooms have no toilet or sink.*

RESPONSE: The respondent disagrees partially with the finding. Unit II at the SBJH has 9 dry rooms; Unit III at the SBJH has 7 dry rooms with no toilet or sink.

RECOMMENDATION 22: *Make every effort to install a sink and toilet in these rooms.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented unless a financing plan is developed. Presently, the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall is involved in a construction expansion project of 90 new beds. The construction is scheduled to be completed by June 30, 2004. Approximately 75% of the minors regularly detained at the SBJH are North County minors and will be detained at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall after June 30, 2004. The increased bed capacity at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall will greatly reduce or temporarily eliminate the need to utilize the dry rooms at the SBJH. The County’s Five Year Capital Improvement Program addresses the potential remodel of the SBJH with only “wet rooms.”

FINDING 23: *At least one sign is in Spanish only.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding. As recommended by the Grand Jury, all interior signs in the facility have been converted to both English and Spanish.

RECOMMENDATION 23: *Ensure all signs are in English and Spanish.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented. As recommended by the Grand Jury, all interior signs giving directions to visitors and the public have been converted to both English and Spanish.

FINDING 24: *Outside work crews have been discontinued.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATION 24: *Reinstate outside work crews. A suggestion would be to utilize these crews to assist with the Isla Vista trash cleanup. Also see Recommendation 7 (b).*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented at present. The Juvenile Hall Weekend Work Program, a non-mandated juvenile offender work program, was discontinued on July 1, 2002 as a budget reduction. The Probation Department hopes to reinstate this program when state and local budget conditions improve. When the program was operational, it regularly provided work crews to assist with trash pickups in Isla Vista. The Weekend Work Program also provided work crews for graffiti removal and park maintenance.

Los Prietos Boys' Camp/Tri-Counties Boot Camp Findings and Recommendations

FINDING 25: *The Camps should try to retain the cabins that are on government-leased land.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with this finding.

RECOMMENDATION 25: *The Probation Department should meet with the USFS/US Congressional Representatives and seek a solution to keep these cabins for the enhancement of the security at the facility and for the protection of surrounding neighbors.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation has been implemented, but not with a positive outcome for the retention of the staff residences. On August 8, 2002, the administration of Los Prietos Boys' Camp (LPBC) and Tri-Counties Boot Camp (TCBC) met with Forest Service Administrators including Sharon Sprouse, Acting District Ranger; Vicki Collins, Lands and Resource Officer; and Tony Martinez, Assistant Lands Officer. At that time, the Probation Department was informed that funding for the First River Crossing Day Use improvement project was secured, but the project was delayed pending a final United States Fish and Wildlife Report. The Conditional Use Permit (C.U.P.) requires removal of the staff residences no later than December 31, 2003. Ms. Sprouse stated that our request to amend the C.U.P. would not be approved because use of forestland for residential usage is incompatible in areas of the United State Forest Service designated and maintained for recreation.

The reported trend is to decrease and eliminate existing residences adjacent to the San Ynez River in Paradise Canyon as leases and use permits expire. It is noted that the existing Conditional Use Permit specifies an incremental removal of the original six residences, which was to commence with three houses by December 31, 1998 (houses 1, 2 & 3) and the removal of the final three homes before December 31, 2003. Because of delays in the funding of the First River Crossing Day Use improvement project, the previous local District Ranger, Gloria Silva, informally extended the reclamation date of the entire site through December of 2003.

On April 29, 2003, Acting District Ranger Maeton Freel was contacted to further discuss the Grand Jury's recommendation. He confirmed that the First River Crossing project was out to bid and that if ground breaking occurred by September 30, 2003, there would be virtually no possibility that the site reclamation plan for the staff homes could be further extended. Should the proposed First River Crossing Day Use improvement project stall in the future, the Probation Department will aggressively revisit this issue with United States Forest Service (USFS) representatives.

A final obstacle to maintaining the Camp staff residences beyond December 31, 2003, is the condition and safety of the septic systems for the residences. Each will require costly repair pursuant to Chapter 29 of the Santa Barbara County Code, if the homes are not removed as scheduled. Even if the funding could be secured for this significant capital project, it is unlikely the USFS would allow the extent of excavation necessary to make these repairs in an area of significant archeological sensitivity. It is noted however, that the Probation Department is in the process of petitioning the USFS to allow the transfer of 9,200 square feet of residential living space from the lower grounds in the pending First River Crossing Day Use improvement project area to the upper LPBC site, either on the first plateau, near the recycling facility and the horticulture compound, or on higher ground near the reservoir. If this modification to the Maintenance Operation Plan is accomplished, the Probation Department will investigate funding for the installation of kit or modular residences for selected personnel to offset the loss of current staff housing and negate the related pending security concerns.

FINDING 26: *The well-equipped shop for the use of the boys at the Camps is closed.*

RESPONSE: The respondent agrees with this finding. The Vocational Education Wood Shop, which was formerly staffed by a teacher from Santa Barbara County of Education Office, was closed in June 2002.

RECOMMENDATION 26: *The Grand Jury recommends that a sincere effort be made to either publicly or privately fund the reopening of the shop program. Perhaps the Probation Department could apply for a grant, an auxiliary could be formed, or a benefactor could be found to seek funds from the private sector to sustain the shop. A volunteer shop teacher might be willing to donate his/her time to keep the shop open.*

RESPONSE: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not fiscally prudent at this time. Both County Education and the Santa Barbara Probation Department are faced with budget reductions for fiscal year 2003-2004 that will result in layoffs. The former shop teacher was redirected on June 30, 2002, to the Santa Barbara Juvenile Hall by County Education to address classroom size issues in both the Juvenile Hall and Camp facilities. The Vocational Education Program, although practical and popular, was not a mandated academic core course and was consequently vulnerable to reduction. According to Fred Razo, Director of Juvenile Court and Community Schools, it is the hope of County Education to reinstate the Vocational Education Program at LPBC/TCBC in the future as part of the formal school program.

Although the Probation Department actively monitors new grant opportunities, detention populations and facilities unfortunately seldom fit the criteria to qualify for program or operations grant funding. Fund raising efforts by the Camp program are extensive and continuous, and all funds are deposited into the Camp discretionary account which can be used solely for the benefit of the wards, but not for operational purposes.

A targeted large scale fund raising event, for which a County Department is neither equipped nor allowed to use significant staff time, would not be likely to adequately fund the staff necessary to reinstate the Camp wood shop and would divert current discretionary revenue sources. Although a volunteer shop teacher may be willing to donate time to keep the wood shop open, a volunteer legally cannot independently supervise detainees and Probation Camp personnel certainly could not be redirected from other mandated duties to facilitate this plan during a period of staff downsizing.

Although it would not qualify for school credits and can not replicate the level of training provided in a Vocational Education Program, the Camp will reinstitute the operation of the Carpentry Crew and utilize the shop resources and equipment to enhance the extent and diversity of the crew training. A Juvenile Institution Officer trained as a journeyman carpenter will be reinstated as the supervisor of an expanded Carpentry Crew Program, upon his return from active military duty as a reservist. This alternative will significantly address the intent of the Grand Jury's recommendation without adding costly positions or redirecting personnel, and available volunteer support could be integrated to further augment the program.

SJG/ca