

June 2, 2009

Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa St., 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' responses to Fiscal Year 2008-2009
Grand Jury Report on "Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy"**

Dear Judge McLafferty:

During its regular meeting on June 2, 2009, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the following as the Board's response to the relevant findings and recommendations in their Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Grand Jury Report entitled "Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy".

Finding 1A

For the Los Prietos Boys Camp to be at full capacity of 56 wards, the following additional staff is needed: one Senior Deputy Probation Officer and two Juvenile Institutions Officers.

Response: The Board Agrees with the finding as it relates to the Corrections Standards Authority rate capacity.

Finding 1B

For the Los Prietos Boys Academy to be filled to capacity of 40 wards, the staff would need to be increased to include: one Senior Deputy Probation Officer; one Juvenile Institutions Officer; one half-time Administration Office Professional.

Response: The Board Agrees with the finding as it relates to the Corrections Standards Authority rate capacity.

Recommendation 1

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department prioritize the hiring of staff to maximize capacity at Los Prietos Boys Camp and Academy.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response:
“The recommendation will not be implemented at this time because it is not warranted. Although the Los Prietos Boys Camp has a Corrections Standards Authority (CSA) rated capacity of 96 beds, the operation of the 75 beds for which the Probation Department is funded to staff, is adequate to effectively manage the current court-ordered juvenile population. There is a waiting list for Camp admittance; however, these numbers have not justified the expansion of the Camp to 96 beds. To mitigate the waitlist, Camp has a program within the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall (SMJH) that not only orients young men to the Camp program, but also provides them the opportunity to begin earning Camp credit while detained in SMJH. Additionally, the Camp Administration and partner agencies have incorporated a furlough program that recognizes and rewards campers with stellar performance to transition home one to two weeks early. The transition includes daily attendance and participation in the Alternative Detention Program. Should commitment numbers significantly increase in the future, expanding the staffed capacity of the Camp will be considered for recommendation during the annual budgetary process and appropriate staffing recommendations would be made at that time.”

Finding 2A

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) programs are offered once a week to the wards at Los Prietos Boys Camp.

Response: The Board Agrees with the finding.

Finding 2B

Cocaine Anonymous (CA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) are offered once every two weeks to Los Prietos Boys Camp and once every two weeks to Los Prietos Boys Academy.

Response: The Board Agrees with the finding.

Recommendation 2:

Provide all anti-substance abuse programs (AA, CA and NA) in the daily curriculum at both Los Prietos Boys Camp and Los Prietos Boys Academy.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response:
“The recommendation requires further analysis as the implementation will depend upon the resources and volunteer availability. In the next 30 days, the Probation Department will inquire with these groups relative to the potential to provide daily programs. At minimum, a request will be made for weekly programming, however, AA, NA, and CA meetings are

established by each organization and their guidelines and mandates must be considered and have the potential of limiting groups at Camp. Of note, Los Prietos has contracted with a certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor who will begin providing a drug and alcohol curriculum in the next 60 days; additionally, an anti-violence and drug and alcohol education class was added to the overall anti-substance abuse programming.”

Finding 3

Mental Health personnel at Los Prietos Boys Camp and Los Prietos Boys Academy are understaffed by one position.

Response: The Board Disagrees with the finding. When the Los Prietos population was downsized from 96 wards to 75 wards in 2005, the level of services contracted by the Probation Department from Alcohol Drug and Mental Health Services (ADMHS) for clinicians was not scaled back in relationship to the population. During the 2008 budgetary process, when faced with major reductions, the Mental Health services at Los Prietos were identified as a reduction that could be sustained. Clinician’s caseloads at camp remain under 30, which are comparable to those of clinicians in the community clinics. There is also a psychiatrist on site one day per week.

Recommendation 3

Fill the vacant Mental Health position.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response: “The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The mental health needs of the wards are being met within the current service levels outlined in Probation’s current contract with ADMHS. In addition to the two Marriage and Family Therapists, and .15 FTE of psychiatry, ADMHS is using two interns to provide enhanced services to the wards committed to the Camp programs.”

Finding 4

Community Transition Officers (CTO) are understaffed by one position.

Response: The Board Disagrees with the finding.

Recommendation 4

Hire one additional CTO.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response:

The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted. The caseload size for a Juvenile Deputy Probation officer spans a range of 20 to 150 youth, with an average caseload of 40. The current caseload size for the CTO is 23 wards. At this time, the CTO’s each supervises a caseload with an enhanced staff to minor ratio. Adding a third officer

would not be warranted unless the aftercare population increased. The Probation Department will continue to monitor CTO resources and workload.

Finding 5

Los Compadres mentoring program was discontinued due to lack of funding.

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response:
Disagree:

“The Probation Department disagrees with this finding. Carolyn Contreras, Director of Family and Youth Services for Community Action Commission, confirmed that the Los Compadres mentoring program has not been discontinued and is available to youth, including those in the Camp programs.”

Recommendation 5

Los Prietos Camp and Academy implement a mentoring program

Response: The Board adopted the Probation Department’s response as its response:

“This recommendation has been implemented. The Probation Department works with community based organizations, community leaders, and civic groups to provide mentoring opportunities for the wards at Camp. Although not traditional mentoring services, the Community Transition Officers (CTO) provide supervision and mentoring services for up to 90 days to wards returning home. If wards need assistance with programming, schooling, or job placement, the CTO’s will provide the necessary guidance, direction, and referrals. If the wards are experiencing difficulty with their transition back into the community, the CTO is a resource not only to the ward but for their parent(s) and teachers as well.

Wards who are fathers are referred to the Teen Age Parenting Program (TAPP) and are eligible for mentoring services until age 21. TAPP develops a case plan for the young man that includes staying in school, prevention/delaying of a second pregnancy, and job placement via the Work Enforcement Act (WEA). The goals are revisited every 3 months.

Los Prietos has a part time coordinator/provider and volunteer of mentoring services. In the facility, this provider assists with Construction Technology Program and the Work and Gain Economic Self Sufficiency programs. He further establishes his role as a mentor by volunteering as a computer support advisors to the boys in the dormitory. He provides assistance to the boys as they transition back into the community by offering to assist with school enrollment and job placement and he conducts home visits. In addition, he visits boys who have reoffended and are detained in Juvenile Hall or incarcerated in County Jail, discussing their current situation and reviewing their plans for success upon their return to the community.

Additionally, within the Camp's Construction Technology Program, local contractors have indicated a desire and willingness to mentor youth through job placement. Los Prietos is continuously looking for mentoring opportunities for the wards in the Camp program."

Sincerely,

Joseph Centeno, Chair
Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

Attachments:

Grand Jury Report entitled "Los Prietos Boys Camp/Academy, An Oasis of Hope".

cc: Grand Jury Foreperson
Patricia Stewart, Chief Probation Officer
Dr. Anne Detrick, Ph.D