



Los Prietos Boys Camp Special Use Permit

Presentation by:

Santa Barbara County Probation Department and
Santa Barbara County Fire Department

February 27, 2024





RECENT HISTORY OF LOS PRIETOS BOYS CAMP

- In April 2022, the Probation Department informed the Board of its intent to begin the process of closing the camp.
- After many years of state and local reform, the camp average daily population (ADP) dwindled to 28 in 2018, and then down to only five in 2022 and 2023.

- ADP by year:

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
27.97	18.45	13.03	6.22	4.90	5.43

- The court stopped committing youth to the camp in December 2023.
- The Probation department will continue to wind down operations over the coming months.

Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD)

- The SBCFD fire crew program has lacked a permanent facility since its inception in 1973.
- The Los Prietos Boys Camp property will house all four SBCFD fire crews.
- The crews are responsible for wildland fire suppression, prescribed fires, and hazardous fuels reduction projects throughout the county.
- The camp property will also serve as a training center for SBCFD, delivering 10,000 hours of fire service training annually.



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

- Future opportunities exist for a youth training program focused on fire service related skills to be hosted at the camp property.
- The majority of fire crew members are Extra-Help employees seeking to advance in the fire service.
- The County fire crew program has a strong focus on career development and mentorship.
- Alumnus of the fire crew program are serving communities in fire departments throughout California.



Santa Barbara County Fire Department

- Providing a permanent base with overnight facilities for the county fire crews strengthens the program and allows for better training.
- The camp location continues the tradition of cooperation between the Santa Barbara County Fire Department and the Los Padres National Forest.



RECOMMENDED ACTIONS

- Receive and file a joint presentation from the Santa Barbara County Probation Department (Probation) and Santa Barbara County Fire Department (SBCFD) regarding a proposal to repurpose the property currently utilized by the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC); and
- Approve the co-location of Probation and SBCFD at the current site of the LPBC; and
- Authorize the SBCFD to apply for a United States Forest Service (USFS) Special Use Permit; and
- Determine that the recommended action is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(5), since the recommended action is a government administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.