




**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER**

**Agenda Number:**

**Clerk of the Board of Supervisors**  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Probation  
**Department No.:** 022  
**For Agenda Of:** Set Hearing: 10/15/24  
1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 11/5/24  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 12/3/24  
**Placement:** Departmental: 11/5/24  
Administrative: 12/3/24  
**Estimated Time:** 20 minutes on 11/5/24  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:** N/A  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors   
**FROM:** Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer, (805) 803-8537  
Contact Info: Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief Probation Officer (805) 882-3715  
**SUBJECT:** **Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 (Juveniles) of the Santa Barbara County Code to Repeal Article III Sections 20-9 through 20-13 and Article IV Sections 20-14 through 20-16**

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing on the Departmental Agenda of November 5, 2024, for an estimated time of 20 minutes to consider the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 (Juveniles) of the Santa Barbara County Code to repeal Article III Sections 20-9 through 20-13 and Article IV Sections 20-14 through 20-16.

On November 5, 2024:

- a) Approve the introduction (First Reading) of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 (Juveniles) of the Santa Barbara County Code to repeal Article III Sections 20-9 through 20-13 and Article IV Sections 20-14 through 20-16;
- b) Read the title of the Ordinance and waive full reading of the Ordinance; and

- c) Continue the hearing to the Administrative Agenda of December 3, 2024, to consider the adoption of the ordinance amendment as follows:

On December 3, 2024:

- a. Consider and approve the adoption (Second Reading) of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20 (Juveniles) of the Santa Barbara County Code to repeal Article III Sections 20-9 through 20-13 and Article IV Sections 20-14 through 20-16; and
- b. Determine that the recommended action is not a project within the meaning of 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.

**Summary Text:**

This item is before your Board to consider adoption of an Ordinance Amending Chapter 20, titled Juveniles, of the Santa Barbara County Code to repeal Article III Sections 20-9 through 20-13 and Article IV Sections 20-14 through 20-16. Article III relates to Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) and Article IV relates to Counseling Education Centers. Neither the LPBC nor the Counseling Education Centers are operational, thus, these articles have become outdated and the Probation Department recommends their repeal.

**Background:**

LPBC was a county youth facility operating on federal land through a special use permit issued by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Due to decades of state and local juvenile reforms, the implementation of evidence-based practices, and increased diversion opportunities, the population at Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) declined significantly, making the program financially unsustainable, which led to Probation's closure of the camp program in 2024.

On February 27, 2024, the Board received a joint presentation from the Probation Department and the Fire Department regarding a proposal to repurpose the property utilized by the LPBC. At that time, the Board approved for the Fire Department to apply for a special use permit from the USFS and for the co-location of the Probation Department and the Fire Department at the site of the LPBC. This allowed a period of transition while Probation inventoried and removed property post-closure of the Camp, and the Fire Department began to prepare the site for its occupancy. Further, the Board was informed that LPBC youth and staff residents would be vacating the LPBC site prior to the expiration of Probation's USFS permit on December 31, 2024.

Since that hearing, all youth and residents have vacated the LPBC site. Additionally, Probation equipment has been relocated, removed and/or sent to County surplus according to County policies. As LPBC is no longer operational, and Probation's special use permit expires December 31, 2024, Chapter 20 (Juveniles), Article III (Los Prietos Boys Camp) has become outdated and obsolete, and will no longer be necessary as of January 1, 2025.

In addition, after consultation with the County Office of Education, Probation recommends the repeal of Article IV, Counseling and Educational Centers of Chapter 20 (Juveniles), which authorizes the creation of counseling and education centers, "... operated in accordance with applicable standards...published by

the Youth Authority of the State of California.” The former California Youth Authority (CYA) became the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) in 2005, and DJJ closed its youth-serving operations in June of 2023. All three of the centers referenced in Article IV closed in July 1, 2010; thus, Article IV has become outdated and obsolete.

**Ordinance Amending Chapter 20:**

In summary, the recommended actions include approval of the Ordinance Amending the Santa Barbara County Code to delete outdated articles in Chapter 20 (refer to Attachment A).

- Article III (Los Prietos Boys Camp), sections 20-9 through 20-13 deleted from Chapter 20
- Article IV (Counseling and Education Centers), sections 20-14 through 20-16 deleted from Chapter 20

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

There is no fiscal impact from adopting the ordinance repeal.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A: Ordinance amending Chapter 20 of the Santa Barbara County Code

Attachment B: Ordinance amending Chapter 20 of the Santa Barbara County Code (including mark-up)

Attachment C: Notice of Public Hearing

**Authored by:**

Melinda Barrera, Deputy Chief Probation Officer