




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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Probation
Department No.: 022
Agenda Date: April 21, 2026
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors 
FROM: Department Director: Holly L. Benton, Chief Probation Officer
Contact Info: Maria Story, Deputy Chief Probation Officer
SUBJECT: County of Santa Barbara 2026 Consolidated Annual Plan Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP)

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the County of Santa Barbara 2026 Consolidated Annual Plan Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP) and
- b) Determine that the above recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the activities are covered by the common sense exemption that CEQA applies only to projects which have the potential for causing significant effects on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activities in question may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary Text:

This item before the Board is the Santa Barbara County 2026 Consolidated Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP) ("Combined Plan") for fiscal year (FY) 2026-2027. The Combined Plan (Attachment A) was developed and approved by both the multidisciplinary Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) and the Juvenile Justice Realignment Subcommittee (JJRS). As in years past, the Combined Plan highlights community prevention and intervention services available to youth in the county, as well as the full continuum of strategies and services available for justice-involved youth, from prevention and diversion, through intervention and reentry when appropriate. It also showcases the strong collaborations and partnerships within the County of Santa Barbara between youth-serving community-based organizations, school districts,

the Probation Department, and other County agencies. The ultimate goal of the JJCC and the JJRS is to improve outcomes for youth and reduce juvenile justice system involvement.

Discussion:

The Combined Plan (Attachment A), which has been submitted to the Board for receipt and filing, reflects the County's ongoing commitment to supporting youth and families through prevention, early intervention, and community-based services, while also providing thoughtful, rehabilitative responses for youth who become involved in the juvenile justice system. It describes a continuum of care that begins with prevention and diversion and, when necessary, extends to intervention, reentry, and long-term support. Throughout the Combined Plan, emphasis is placed on partnership, shared accountability, and strengthening the systems that help young people thrive. The goals outlined in the Combined Plan differentiate between those focused on youth supervised in the community, those focused on youth at the Juvenile Justice Center (JJC), and those that span both.

For FY 2026–27, the Combined Plan continues to build on community-centered diversion efforts, including the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) program, the Cannabis Education program, and Restorative Justice programs that have been expanded to include youth whose cases have been filed in juvenile court. These programs offer youth opportunities to take accountability, repair harm, and build skills in ways that keep them connected to their families, schools, and communities whenever possible. This year, services were expanded to allow for greater access to evidence-based programming for youth both in custody and in the community, enhanced countywide opportunities for mentoring, and expanded services from Behavioral Wellness. Enhanced care management through CalAIM is also being implemented to improve coordination of services and support smoother transitions for youth entering and exiting the JJC.

The number of youth serving Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) commitments locally continues to exceed projections. Consequently, it is even more important to focus on reducing recidivism through evidence-based programming and collaborating with justice and community partners for information sharing, coordination of efforts, and to continue prioritizing best practices. As noted in the JJRP, some youth serving SYTF commitments may remain at the JJC beyond the age of majority, and programming continues to evolve to meet their developmental, educational, and vocational needs, such as the addition of culinary arts and barbering programs. Efforts to identify and use Less Restrictive Programs are ongoing, including a successful transition to supportive housing in Santa Barbara and the execution of the Pine Grove Fire Camp contract, which allows eligible and physically suitable youth serving SYTF commitments to be released to the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp in Pine Grove, CA, upon Court approval. While there, youth participate in fire camp programs, firefighter training, and in-camp work assignments under the supervision of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

The Combined Plan offers many goals, some of which further support diversionary efforts and effectiveness; limiting the time youth spend on probation; ensuring quality assurance for evidence based programming; providing additional training to staff on deescalation, inclusivity, and motivational interviewing; providing no-barrier access to basic necessities for families; offering family engagement opportunities for youth detained at the JJC; and continuing to explore additional gender and culturally responsive program opportunities to meet youths' needs. The goals are designed to reflect the different needs and experiences of youth supervised in the community, youth housed at the JJC, and shared system-wide priorities. From diversion to reentry services, there is a consistent focus on reducing further justice system involvement, supporting family stability, and ensuring services are responsive, culturally informed, and grounded in best practices.

The Combined Plan includes information on how JJCPA funds, Youthful Offender Block Grant (YOBG) funds and SB 823 funds allocated to the County are used. For FY 2026-27, JJCPA spending is estimated to be approximately \$1.2 million and is included in the Probation Department's FY 2026-27 proposed budget, with a reserve balance of approximately \$4.8 million. FY 2026-27 YOBG spending is estimated to be approximately \$2.1 million and is included in the Probation Department's FY 2026-27 proposed budget, with a reserve balance of approximately \$6.1 million. Santa Barbara County's estimated SB 823 funding allocation for fiscal year 2026–27 is \$1.2 million and is included in the Probation Department's proposed budget for fiscal year 2026-27, with a reserve balance of approximately \$2.4 million.

Background:

The Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) was enacted in 2000 through Assembly Bill 1913 and is codified in state law. It provides counties with a stable source of funding for local programs and services designed to reduce juvenile crime and delinquency. The act requires each county to maintain a JJCC which works collaboratively to identify local needs, supports the development of effective programs, and helps establish budget priorities to address delinquency at different points in the continuum of juvenile justice. The act also requires counties to develop a CMJJP, which is updated annually and submitted to the Office of Youth and Community Restoration (OYCR), the state agency now responsible for oversight of the JJCPA, a responsibility previously held by the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC).

In 2020, Senate Bill 823 added Section 1995 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, requiring each county to establish a subcommittee of the JJCC, locally operated as the JJRS, in order to receive Juvenile Justice Realignment Block Grant (JJRBG) funding. JJRBG supports county-based care, custody, and supervision for youth who were realigned from the state Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) prior to its closure, or who would have been eligible for commitment to DJJ under prior law. Many of these youth are now serving long-term commitments at the JJC. The goals of JJRBG include reducing over-incarceration, advancing racial and ethnic equity, expanding vocational and wellness programming, and strengthening pre-release and reentry services.

SB 823 also established a funding allocation for each county to provide appropriate rehabilitative housing and supervision services for realigned youth which began in fiscal year 2021–2022. The law requires each county's JJRS to develop a plan outlining how these funds will be used and how services will be delivered to realigned youth. Each year, the JJRS develops a JJRP describing local facilities, in-custody and post-release programs, step-down services, supervision practices, and reentry strategies that are either currently in place or planned. On October 8, 2023, Section 1995 of the Welfare and Institutions Code was amended to require the JJRP to be updated and submitted to OYCR annually. SB 823 further requires the Board of Supervisors to consider this plan when making funding decisions.

Beginning in fiscal year 2023–24, the Probation Department combined the CMJJP and JJRP into a single document to provide a more comprehensive view of services and strategies that support youth from prevention and intervention through reentry. On April 3, 2026, the JJCC approved the fiscal year 2026–27 CMJJP, and the JJRS approved the fiscal year 2026–2027 JJRP. Both plans were submitted to OYCR on April 7, 2026, in compliance with statutory requirements.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Estimated FY 2026-27 JJCPA funding is approximately \$1.2 million and is included in the Probation Department's FY 2026-27 proposed budget; the JJCPA reserve balance is currently approximately \$4.8 million.

Estimated FY 2026-27 YOBG funding is approximately \$2.1 million and is included in the Probation Department's FY 2026-27 proposed budget; the YOBG reserve balance is currently approximately \$6.1 million.

Estimated FY 2026-27 SB 823 funding is approximately \$1.2 million and is included in the Probation Department's FY 2026-27 proposed budget; the SB 823 reserve balance is currently approximately \$2.4 million.

Funding Source	FY [2026-2027]	Total
General Fund		
State	\$4,626,300.00	\$4,626,300.00
Federal		
Fees		
[<i>Other Source</i>]		
Total	\$4,626,300.00	\$4,626,300.00

Attachments:

Attachment A –County of Santa Barbara 2026 Consolidated Annual Plan Comprehensive Multi-Agency Juvenile Justice Plan (CMJJP) and Juvenile Justice Realignment Plan (JJRP)

Contact Information:

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