



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: January 24, 2017
Placement: Departmental
Estimated Time: 30 Minutes
Continued Item: Yes
If Yes, date from: August 23, 2016
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer, 805.739.8603
Director(s)
Contact Info: Steven DeLira, Deputy Chief Probation Officer, 805.739.8588
sdelira@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

SUBJECT: **Follow-Up to Response to 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report: Los Prietos Boys Camp – Effective But Underutilized; Finding and Recommendation 2 re Local Female Specific Services; All Districts**

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

- A. Receive and file a presentation on local female specific services; and
- B. Determine that the above recommended action does not constitute a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), finding that the project is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment and direct staff to file a Notice of Exemption (Attachment B) on that basis .

Summary Text:

On June 9, 2016, the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury released a report entitled “Los Prietos Boys Camp – Effective But Underutilized.” Finding and Recommendation 2 stated, no similar camp program for female juveniles exists in Santa Barbara County and recommended that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County Probation Department to evaluate the inclusion of female juvenile offenders in this successful program.

Background:

On August 23, 2016, the response from the Board of Supervisors to the then Presiding Judge James Herman regarding Finding and Recommendation 2 of the Santa Barbara County Grand Jury report was:

“The recommendation requires further analysis and Probation also agrees, and a recent study noted, that a ‘local option where girls could receive intensive mental health treatment would be preferable to out-of-county group homes.’ Probation would like to further explore potential opportunities for in-county residential treatment and programming for female juvenile offenders, which could occur in a camp setting. This subject has been discussed for several years, and warrants closer focus and discussion among stakeholders, such as the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC), Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Commission (JJJPC) and other partners. The Probation Department will review options in addressing this issue over the next six months with stakeholders to determine the interest in developing a similar program for female offenders that the Camp offers male offenders.”

The Santa Barbara County Probation Department conducted a five-year review of females in placement, which revealed that a total of 67 females were placed into non-relative foster care during the last five fiscal years. A majority of the females were between 14 and 17 years old at the time of disposition and 70% identified themselves as Hispanic. The majority of girls in placement came from Santa Barbara, Goleta & Carpinteria (44%) and the second highest group came from Santa Maria (34%), followed by Lompoc (21%). It was noted that the total number of females exiting probation had declined over the last five fiscal years. The abuse of drugs and alcohol was the most common diagnosis for boys and girls, and mental health status was consistently found to be a risk factor for recidivism and unsuccessful probation completion. The most serious charges have shifted over time, with a decline in property offenses and an increase in narcotic and drug offenses. Successful completion of at least 50% of probation programs received was associated with a reduction in recidivism and increased likelihood of successfully exiting probation.

On October 13, 2016, Probation staff met with the JJJPC to discuss the Grand Jury findings and recommendations. As a result of the low number of females in placement and in consideration of a girls’ camp, a JJJPC member recommended Probation consider a tri-counties girls’ camp. Probation met with community members and Community Based Organizations (CBOs) on October 24, 2016, and reviewed the cases of females in placement over the past five years. There was discussion on how Santa Barbara County could build on its strengths to reduce risks through trauma-informed care and ideas were exchanged for programming both in and out of custody. There are fewer girls on probation with more risks and needs and there is a need for mental health services, and a need for alcohol and drug services for this population. A stakeholder group that University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) meets with is our girls in Juvenile Hall. The girls in Juvenile Hall have requested additional programming in the Hall.

Staff from the Santa Barbara County Probation met with a JJCC workgroup on December 2, 2016. The presentation was similar to the community presentation and there was discussion regarding local placement in foster care and relative foster care, out-of-county group homes, female specific programming in Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, a commitment program for girls in the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall, and a girls' camp program. There was no specific recommendation offered from the workgroup.

The success of gender-specific efforts made by the Probation Department at the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall has demonstrated that traditional male oriented approaches do not serve the female youth well. Probation recommends, whenever possible, the use of local foster care and relative foster care for females needing out of home placement. Enhanced educational, vocational and rehabilitative programming in the community and in the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall is also recommended. Probation will need to ensure that girls are engaged and participate in programs and that programming should be gender-specific and culturally competent. Further, Probation will ensure delivery of trauma-informed evidence-based care. Additional options for female specific programs include expanding the in-custody female specific program from three days a week to seven days a week, implementing a 90-day female specific Juvenile Hall commitment program and a Girls' Camp. The cost associated with the three proposals for enhanced female specific programs and additional details of programming and staffing are available if the Board is interested in pursuing these programs further.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts: N/A

Fiscal Analysis: N/A

Staffing Impacts:

Legal Positions:

0.0

FTEs:

0.0

Special Instructions: None

Attachments:

Attachment A: PowerPoint Presentation

Attachment B: CEQA Notice of Exemption

Authored by:

Steven DeLira, Deputy Chief Probation Officer

cc: N/A

Attachment B

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Santa Barbara County Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

FROM: Guadalupe Rabago, Chief Probation Officer

The project or activity identified below is determined to be exempt from further environmental review requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as defined in the State and County Guidelines for the implementation of CEQA.

APN(s): n/a Case No.: n/a

Location: Countywide

(Include street address and cross street (if urbanized area) or attach specific location map)

Project Title: Follow-Up to Response to 2015-2016 Grand Jury Report: Los Prietos Boys Camp – Effective But Underutilized; Finding and Recommendation 2 re Local Female Specific Services; All Districts

Project Description:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of Santa Barbara

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: County of Santa Barbara

Exempt Status: (Check one)

- Ministerial
- Statutory Exemption
- Categorical Exemption
- Emergency Project
- Declared Emergency
- Other

Cite specific CEQA and/or CEQA Guideline Section: 15061(b), (3), (No possibility of impact to the environment).

The action does not constitute a project that is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), since the project is a creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities, which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Reasons to support exemption findings (attach additional material, if necessary)

This receipt and file of a presentation on local female specific services does not constitute a project as it is a government funding mechanism or other governmental fiscal activity, which does not involve a commitment to a specific project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Steve DeLira

Phone #: 805.739-8588

Department/Division Representative: Steve DeLira

Date: January 17, 2017

Acceptance Date: _____

Date Filed by County Clerk: _____