



Response to Grand Jury Report:
“Los Prietos Boys Camp
Effective, But Underutilized”

County of Santa Barbara
Board of Supervisors
August 23, 2016



Grand Jury Report Summary

- Published June 9, 2016
- The Santa Barbara County Grand Jury visited the Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) as part of its annual charge under the *California Penal Code, Section 919 (b)*, to “inquire into the condition and management of the public prisons within the county.”
- On June 9, 2016, the Grand Jury released their “Los Prietos Boys Camp Effective, but Underutilized” report which contains their findings and recommendations.
- The Board of Supervisors is named as the responder to Findings 1-4 & Recommendations 1-4.



Findings and Recommendations

Finding #1: The Los Prietos Boys Camp (LPBC) at its current staffing level can care for up to 50 youth yet the number of juveniles held is less than this number.

Board Response: The Board Agrees with the finding.

Recommendation #1a: *That the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to conduct a study of ways to increase the utilization of the Los Prietos Boys Camp.*

Board Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.*

- Best practices utilize community-based supervision and programming, allowing the youth to remain in their home
- Los Prietos Boys Camp is generally not appropriate for low/medium risk youth



Findings and Recommendations Cont.

Recommendation #1b: *That the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to reevaluate its acceptance criteria and process to develop methods to increase the number of youth who are ordered to the LPBC program.*

Board Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.*

- Increasing youth ordered to Camp would results in youth with low/medium risk with youth who are at a high risk to re-offend
- Placing low risk youth in programing intended for the higher risk population often has a negative impact is not recommended



Findings and Recommendations Cont.

Recommendation #1c: *That the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to evaluate the possibility of decreasing the lengths of the programs in order to accommodate more youth.*

Board Response: *The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable.*

- The Juvenile Court determines the length of stay (120 days or 180 days), based on offense, history, and needs of the youth
- Process in place to reduce to 90 or 120 days based on outcomes
- The length of the program is evidence-based and further reduction of the program timeframe may adversely impact the results



Findings and Recommendations Cont.

Finding #2: No similar camp program for female juveniles exists in Santa Barbara County.

Board Response: The Board Agrees with the finding.

Recommendation #2: *That the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors direct the Santa Barbara County Probation Department to evaluate including female juvenile offenders in this successful program.*

Board Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

- LPBC not recommended for females
- Where possible, best practice includes non-institutional setting
- Probation is pursuing other options which would enhance educational, vocational and rehabilitative programming



Findings and Recommendations Cont.

Finding #3: Freedom 4Youth offers a post incarceration mentorship program that is only available to youth who live in the South County

Board Response: The Board Agrees with the finding.

Recommendation #3: *That the Board of Supervisors encourage the establishment of a similar mentorship program for North County youth.*

Board Response: *The recommendation requires further analysis.*

- The South Coast program is funded by non-profit organizations
- Probation seeks mentors within youth's environment
- Department will reach out to non-profits to evaluate feasibility of establishing a similar program in North County



Findings and Recommendations Cont.

Finding #4: No standard calculation methodology exists within Santa Barbara County for measuring juvenile recidivism.

Board Response: The Board Agrees with the finding

Recommendation #4: *That the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to establish a single calculation methodology for juvenile recidivism and utilize it in all future reporting*

Board Response: *The recommendation has not been implemented but will be implemented in the future.*

- Probation is working to update their data and case management system and recidivism calculations.
- Probation will be reviewing current processes to ensure the Department remains aligned with the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), the BSCC standards and definitions for recidivism.



Recommended Actions

- a) Consider and adopt responses in Attachment A as the Board of Supervisors' response to the FY 15-16 Grand Jury report entitled "Los Prietos Boys Camp Effective, but underutilized", Attachment B;
- b) Authorize the Chair to sign a response letter and forward the responses to the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court (Attachment A); and
- c) Determine pursuant to CEQA Guidelines 15378(b)(4) that the above actions are not a project subject to CEQA review, because it is a government fiscal activity that does not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.