



# county of Santa Cruz

**SUSAN A. MAURIELLO, J.D., COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

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June 17, 1998

AGENDA: June 23, 1998

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

County of Santa Cruz

701 Ocean Street

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

## 1998 CSAC CHALLENGE AWARDS

Dear Board Members:

Each year the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) sponsors special Challenge Awards to recognize California county governments for innovative and creative programs and services to their citizens. A total of ten awards will be presented at the Association's Annual meeting in November.

The attached application describes the "Santa Cruz County Youth Community Services Program (YCSP)" which your Board initiated in early 1997 in response to severe overcrowding at the Juvenile Hall. Your Board has received several reports on the YCSP which provides a weekend and summer work program for juveniles referred by the Probation Department. The YCSP is a collaborative program with the Probation Department, Department of Public Works, County Parks, and the Community Action Board, Inc. and has proven to be very successful as a structured alternative to detention. The program has recently received the 1998 Outstanding Service Award by the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council. In order to apply for a Challenge Award, CSAC requires authorization from the County Board of Supervisors.

It is therefore Recommended that your Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing the County to submit the attached application for the 1998 CSAC Challenge Awards Program.

Very truly yours,

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO

County Administrative Officer

cc. Probation Department  
Department of Public Works  
POSCS  
Community Action Board, Inc.

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BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OFF THE COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NO.

On the motion of Supervisor  
duly seconded by Supervisor  
the following resolution is adopted

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY TO ENTER  
THE CSAC CHALLENGE AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 1998

WHEREAS, the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) is sponsoring the CSAC Challenge Awards; and

WHEREAS, the County of Santa Cruz desires to participate in the 1998 Challenge Awards; and

WHEREAS, the County is submitting applications for consideration by CSAC and this is titled "Santa Cruz County Youth Community Service Program (YCSP)"; and

WHEREAS, the County agrees to the program's requirements and responsibilities as set forth by CSAC for entering the awards program;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED that the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz is authorized, on its behalf, to submit the attached application to CSAC for the Challenge Awards program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this     Day   of     , 1998, by the following vote:

AYES:     SUPERVISORS  
NOES:     SUPERVISORS  
ABSENT:   SUPERVISORS

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

\_\_\_\_\_  
County Counsel

*S:rescsac*

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**ENTRY FORM - YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

*County(ies) Name(s)*

JOHN RHOADS, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

*Contact/Title*

CAROL GIRVETZ, PRIN ADMIN ANALYST

303 WATER STREET, SUITE 9

*Mailing Address*

701 OCEAN STREET, ROOM 520

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

*City State Zip*

SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060

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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY YOUTH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (YESP)

*Title of this Entry*

N/A

*Project/Program Name*

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **Santa Cruz County Youth Community Service Program (YCSP)**

#### **A. Problem or Challenge**

The Santa Cruz County Youth Community Service Program (YCSP) provides a post-disposition work program during weekends and summer weekdays for juveniles referred by the Santa Cruz County Probation Department as an alternative to detention in the Juvenile Hall. The YCSP is a unique partnership between the Juvenile Court, Juvenile Probation, the County Public Works Department, the County Parks Department and the Community Action Board, Inc., a non-profit community based agency. The program was initiated in February, 1997 in response to severe overcrowding at the Juvenile Hall which was creating an extremely unsafe environment for staff and youth at the Hall. During calendar year 1996, the Juvenile Hall had exceeded its maximum legal capacity 355 days or 97.3% of the year. Weekend population was averaging 70 juveniles in a facility with a rated bed capacity of 42. As a result of this severe overcrowding, representatives from the County and the Courts met on a weekly basis to analyze the overcrowding and to develop programs that would provide structured alternatives in lieu of detention. Agreement was reached to develop the YCSP with the goal to relieve overcrowding and to create positive behavior changes by developing a sense of purpose, accomplishment, and accountability.

#### **B. Solution**

The YCSP was modeled after the highly successful Natural Resources and Employment Program operated by the Community Action Board, Inc. which employs the homeless and displaced workers in public projects. With funding approved by the Board of Supervisors, an interagency steering committee formulated the program policies, procedures and work plan for the YCSP. Work projects were developed jointly by the various agencies with the goal of providing projects that maintain, improve, and assist in the beautification of the environment. The projects are restorative in nature and include revegetation, exotic plant removal, flood control, storm cleanup, litter abatement, and graffiti removal. The work crew consists of up to ten youths with supervision provided by one crew supervisor and an assistant. The YCSP can be credited with

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**Santa Cruz Youth Community Service Program (YCSP)**

assisting in reducing the population at the Juvenile Hall from a high average monthly population of 71.5 juveniles in October, 1996 to a low average monthly population of 43.7 juveniles in May, 1997.

**C.      Budget/Costs/Savings**

The cost of the YCSP for 1997-98 is \$69,872 which is financed through the Department of Public Works (\$61,383) and the Probation Department (\$8,489). These funds provide for the contract with the Community Action Board, Inc. (CAB) for program supervision and work site development. CAB staff monitor participant activity and provide follow-up reports to a Probation Aide who is funded separately through the Probation Department. Since the program began in February, 1997, 752 bed days have been diverted from Juvenile Hall, which resulted in a safer environment for staff and detainees, and which assisted the Juvenile Hall in complying with its rated capacity of 42 beds.

**D.      Results**

The Youth Community Service Program (YCSP) has established a unique model for collaboration between the criminal justice system and the land use system whereby mutual benefit and common purposes have been achieved. The YCSP typifies the Restorative Justice approach that is considered a model for juvenile justice systems. Program participants gain self-esteem by understanding the value of their contributions, while developing good work habits, skills, and very importantly, team work. In addition to ensuring the safety of the community and the youth participants, the program has been instrumental in providing life skill training and mentoring to the participants at a critical point in their lives. The YCSP was recently awarded the 1998 Outstanding Service Award by the Santa Cruz County Criminal Justice Council.

**E.      Program Contact**

John Rhoads, Chief Probation Officer  
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