



# County of Santa Cruz 623740

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**JOHN P. RHOADS, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER**

MAILING: P.O. BOX 1812, SANTACRUZ, CA 95061-1812

(408) 454-3800 FAX: (408) 454-3827

November 18, 1998

Agenda: November 24, 1998

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

### **Status Report: Care of Court Wards Budget**

Dear Board Members:

Each quarter the Auditor-Controller provides your Board with a financial review of general revenue and departmental expenditure activity. The financial report highlights areas where expenditures are significantly exceeding budgeted appropriations. In conjunction with this quarterly review we want to bring to the Board's attention the current estimated cost overrun for 1998-99 in the Care of Court Wards budget and the actions being taken to address these expenditures.

### **BACKGROUND AND STATUS OF CARE OF COURT WARDS BUDGET**

As your Board is aware, the Welfare and Institutions Code allows the Juvenile Court to remove children from the custody of their parents for placement in foster homes and institutions, County-operated camps, ranches and schools, or the California Youth Authority all of which provide a system of graduated sanctions in structured residential situations with treatment and training. The Care of Court Wards budget provides funding for the court-ordered placement of juveniles in County-operated camps and ranches and for undocumented juveniles in group homes. Foster care expenditures are made through the Human Resources Agency budget.

The Probation Department has determined that the Care of Court Wards budget is expected to exceed the 1998-99 budgeted amount by approximately \$257,441 this fiscal year if juvenile placements continue at the current rate, and is in fact unable to process vendor payments at this time due to the budget shortfall. The overrun in this budget is due to two primary factors: the number and anticipated length of stay for court placements (\$115,909) and the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) policy regarding PRUCOL status for undocumented minors in custody (\$141,532).

As your Board was informed during budget hearings, the Care of Court Wards budget has been severely impacted by the change in INS policy regarding the granting of PRUCOL status (Permanently Residing Under Color of Law) to minors in custody. The local cost of maintaining citizens and documented minors in placement is shared with the Federal and State governments. PRUCOL statutes previously made undocumented minors eligible for State funding for foster care reimbursement. In October 1996, the local INS office stopped granting this status, which resulted in 100% county costs for undocumented minors in foster care. However, INS has not extinguished the PRUCOL status for all probation departments in California. San Diego

## STATUS REPORT - CARE OF COURT WARDS BUDGET

(Page 2)

Agenda Date: 11/24/98

County reports that their regional INS office has continued to approve local PRUCOL requests.

With PRUCOL status for undocumented minors, the Care of Court Wards budget would be reduced by \$141,532, with an increase of \$84,192 in the Human Resources Agency Foster Care budget, for a net decrease in County cost of \$57,340, as the State funding for PRUCOL eligible minors is approximately 40%.

**STEPS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO ADDRESS ESTIMATED COST OVERRUNS FOR 1998-99**

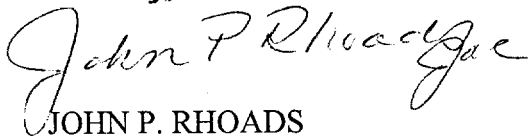
Your Board will recall that cost overruns in this budget have been an issue in previous budget years. In an effort to control the costs, a regular series of weekly meetings were held with the Court and the Probation Department to develop short and long term strategies for this population. These included reductions in placement length of stay, certain changes in Court placement policy, and a heightened effort to secure PRUCOL authorization from the federal government for the costs of housing undocumented minors in group homes.

These meetings have again been initiated to discuss the status of the budget and determine the steps that can be taken at this time to address these cost overruns. In addition, we have written to our federal representatives requesting that the INS reverse the current PRUCOL policy for our County. A change in this policy would have a significant benefit to the County's financial situation.

We are continuing to work with the Court and the CAO's Office on this matter and we will provide monthly reports on our progress in addressing these matters.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board accept and file this report on the status of the Care of Court Wards Budget.

Sincerely,



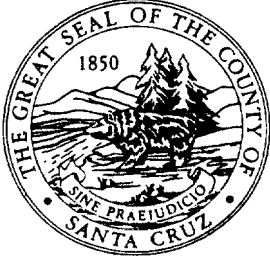
JOHN P. RHOADS  
Chief Probation Officer

JPR: JAC:FN

**RECOMMENDED:**

SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Santa Cruz County Courts  
County Administrative Office  
Auditor-Controller  
Probation Department



# County of Santa Cruz

## PROBATION DEPARTMENT

**JOHN P. RHOADS, CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER**

MAILING: P.O. BOX 1812, SANTACRUZ, CA 95061-1812

(408) 454-3800 FAX: (408) 454-3827

December 9, 1998

Agenda: December 15, 1998

Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Cruz  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, California 95060

**Approve Resolution Accepting and Appropriating Unanticipated Revenue; and Approve Transfer of Funds and Appropriate for Cost Overrun in the Care of Court Wards Budget, as Recommended by the Chief Probation Officer**

Dear Board Members:

On November 24, 1998, your Board received a Status Report on the Care of Court Wards budget which was subsequently carried forward to the December 15, 1998 meeting. This companion letter identified an estimated cost overrun in the amount of \$257,000 in the Probation Department's Care of Court Wards budget for the current fiscal year, and informed your Board that the Department is in fact unable to process vendor payments at this time. The amount of the cost overrun is now estimated at \$285,000, based on court-ordered placements through December 9, 1998.

A review of other program areas in the Probation budget indicates that unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$35,000 and salary savings in the amount of \$70,000 are currently available to offset a portion of the anticipated cost overrun in the Care of Court Wards budget at this time. These additional funds will allow the Department to process payments through February 1999. Due to program changes and aggressive claiming practices, the Probation Department's Federal Title IV-E reimbursement has resulted in the receipt of unanticipated revenue of approximately \$35,000 in the current fiscal year. In addition, salary savings in the amount of \$70,000 for non-grant funded positions have accrued due to higher than expected staff turnover and delays in the recruitment/hiring process.

The Probation Department will return to your Board on January 26, 1999 with a full report discussing the status of the Care of Court Wards budget and the measures being taken to address these cost overruns, and will include a request for funding from General Fund Contingencies in order to process vendor payments through June 30, 1999.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$35,000 in Probation Index 574000 and appropriate in Care of Court Wards Index 577000 as detailed on the attached AUD 60;
2. Approve and authorize the transfer of \$70,000 salary savings from Probation Index 574000 to Care of Court Wards Index 577000, as detailed on the attached AUD 74; and

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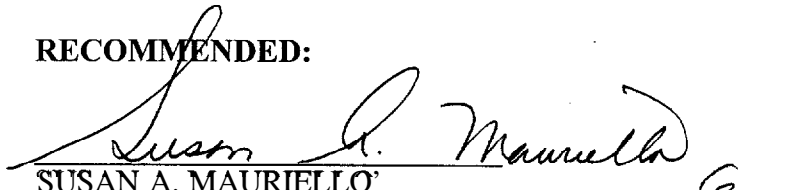
3. Direct the Chief of Probation to report back to the Board of Supervisors with a full report discussing the status of the Care of Court Wards budget on January 26, 1999.

Sincerely,

  
JOHN P. RHOADS  
Chief Probation Officer

JPR:FN

**RECOMMENDED:**

  
SUSAN A. MAURIELLO  
County Administrative Officer

cc: Santa Cruz County Courts  
County Administrative Office  
Auditor-Controller  
Probation Department

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

Batch #  
Date:

RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Document#  
Amount:  
LNS  
T/C Hash

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

**RESOLUTION ACCEPTING UNANTICIPATED REVENUE**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Santa Cruz is a recipient of funds from Federal Government Reimbursement for Title IV-E program; and

WHEREAS, the County is recipient of funds in the amount ~~of \$ 35,000~~ which are either in excess of those anticipated or are not specifically set forth in the current fiscal year budget of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Government Code Section 29130(c)/29064(b), such funds may be made available for specific appropriation by a four-fifths vote of the Board of Supervisors;

NOW, **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** AND ORDERED that the Santa Cruz County Auditor-Controller accept funds in the amount of \$ 35,000 into

**Department** Probation

<u>T/C</u>	<u>INDEX NUMBER</u>	<u>REVENUE SUBJECT NUMBER</u>	<u>ACCOUNT NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	574000	1096	Federal-Other Programs	\$35,000

and that such funds be and are hereby appropriated as follows:

<u>T/C</u>	<u>INDEX NUMBER</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE SUBJECT NUMBER</u>	<u>PRJ/UCD</u>	<u>A C C O U N T</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	577000	4510		Foster Care & Juv. Institution	\$35,000

**DEPARTMENT HEAD** I hereby certify that the fiscal provisions have been researched and that the Revenue(s) (has been) (will be) received within the current fiscal year.

By John P. Rhoads  
Department Head

Date: 12/4/98

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COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

/\_\_\_\_\_/ Recommended to Board

/\_\_\_\_\_/ Not recommended to Board

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PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, State of California, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_ by the following vote (requires four-fifths vote for approval ):

AYES: SUPERVISORS

NOES: SUPERVISORS

ABSENT: SUPERVISORS

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Chairperson of the Board

ATTEST:

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Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Henry A. Oberhelman III  
County Counsel 12/16/97

APPROVED AS TO ACCOUNTING DETAIL:

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Auditor-Controller

Distribution:

Auditor-Controller  
County Counsel  
County Administrative Officer  
Originating Department

AUD60 (REV 12/97)

cc: audit\aud60.wpd

Page 2 of 2

**COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ**  
REQUEST FOR TRANSFER OR REVISION  
OF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS AND/OR FUNDS

Department: Probation

Date: December 4, 1998

TO: Board of Supervisors / County Administrative Officer / District Board

I hereby request your approval of the following transfer of budget appropriations and/or funds in the fiscal year ending June 30, 1999.

AUDITORS USE ONLY			
DOCUMENT #	AMOUNT	L/N	T/C HASH
JE 6, , , ,	1140000:0002		043

BATCH #	
DATE	Keyed By:

T/C	INDEX	SUBJECT	USER CODE	AMWNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION *
021 ~ 577000 ~ 45 10				70000000	Foster Care
022	574000	3 100		70000000	Regular Pay

Explanation: Salary savings accrued through 11/30/98, to be used to offset cost overrun in Care of Court Wards budget, foster care payments

Name John P. Rhoads  Title Chief Probation Officer

Auditor-Controller's Action: I hereby certify that unencumbered balance(s) is/are available in the appropriations/funds and in the amounts indicated above.

Auditor-Controller, by Ron Silva, Deputy Date 12/7/98

County Administrative Officer's Action:  Recommended to Board || Approved || Not Recommended or Approved

County Administrative Officer Shelly Date 12/10/98

State of California } As the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Santa Cruz, I do hereby certify that the foregoing request for  
ss. transfer was approved by said Board of Supervisors as recommended by the County Administrative Officer by an order  
County of Santa Cruz } duly entered in the minutes of said Board on

\_\_\_\_\_, 19\_\_\_\_, BY \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy Clerk

(A-C)\* Desc : \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_ - Budget Transfer

Distribution: BRD. NAME AGENDA DATE ITEM NO.  
White-Board of Supervisors Green-County Administrative Officer Goldenrod-Departmental Control Copy  
Yellow-Auditor-Controller Pink-Originating Department

A-C Review		