



County of Santa Cruz 0069

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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JOHN P. RHOADS
CHIEF PROBATION OFFICER

February 13, 2001

Agenda: March 6, 2001

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

REPORT ON STATUS OF CARE OF COURT WARDS AND STATE CORRECTIONAL SCHOOLS BUDGETS

Dear Board Members:

In previous years, your Board has requested periodic status reports on Juvenile Justice programs in the Probation Department. Following is a discussion on the status of the Care of Court Wards and State Correctional Schools budgets:

CARE OF COURT WARDS BUDGET

The purpose of this budget is to allow the Probation Department to place juveniles in county-operated camps and ranches, allow access to diagnostic services offered by the California Youth Authority upon the order of the Juvenile Court, provide outpatient treatment for indigent juvenile sex offenders, and provide funding for undocumented minors in group home placements who are not eligible for AFDC-Foster Care. In many instances, the Juvenile Court has found that due to a minor's home environment and/or their record of delinquency, it would be beneficial to remove them from that environment and place them in a structured live-in situation where a particular type of rehabilitation, training and treatment could be provided to them. The juveniles ordered into these placements are generally the more sophisticated delinquents; however not sophisticated to the point where a commitment to the California Youth Authority is in order.

The final budget amount for foster care payments in the Care of Court Wards Index for FY 2000-01 is \$232,132. As of this date, there are a total of five wards in group home and ranch/camp placement; four wards are in ranch/camp and one is in a group home due to his status as an undocumented alien. Current year activity in this program remains a significant reduction from the past several years, when there were up to 18 wards in placement in one month. If placements continue at the current level, we anticipate remaining well within the established budget for this index. Total costs incurred through January 31, 2001 is \$84,054. If actual placements remain at the current level through June 30, 2001, the total cost is estimated to be \$144,093.

Undocumented Minors

Undocumented minors are not able to receive the Immigration and Naturalization Service's designation (PRUCOL - Permanently Residing Under Color of Law) which would make them eligible for State and Federal foster care funds. Although INS granted PRUCOL status to several wards in the last year, continued uncertainty exists about the continuation of this designation. Should PRUCOL status be disallowed by INS, costs for at least three wards may be retroactively

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adjusted from federal/state financing to county funds in this index, which could increase costs by \$26,000 for the current year. The Probation Department continues to work with the Human Resources Agency to review current policies and regulations on this issue, and with INS to assist minors who may be eligible for citizenship.

STATE CORRECTIONAL SCHOOLS BUDGET

This budget allows payment for the care of juveniles who are committed to the California Youth Authority (CYA) and who are under their direct care in institutions or post-institutional placements. A charge is made to the county by the State in the amount of \$150 per month for the care of each juvenile under their direct supervision. Additionally, the Youth Authority categorizes committing offenses by severity, on a scale from one through seven. Beginning in January 1999, counties that committed wards for a category seven offense were charged the full cost of care, which is \$31,200 annually. Category six offenses are charged 75% and category five 50% of full cost. The Department is also charged a base rate of \$150 per month for CYA parole violators - a population over which the local court has no sentencing authority.

Juveniles are committed to the Youth Authority only **after** all local resources have been exhausted in attempts to effect their rehabilitation. Therefore, a State correctional school is the last resort in the Juvenile Justice System.

The final budget amount for support of juveniles committed to the California Youth Authority in the State Correctional Schools index for FY 2000-01 is \$125,000. There are currently 31 juveniles in custody, which is two juveniles less than the average number in custody last year. However, due to the charge system used by CYA, which calculates cost of placement on the severity of the crime(s) committed by the juveniles, cost in this index have risen dramatically in the current year. In FY 1999-2000, only one juvenile was placed in category 6 at a monthly cost of \$1,950, for four months, and total cost was \$7,865. In the current fiscal year, three juveniles are classified in category 6, with a total estimated annual cost of \$54,080. There is also one minor assigned category 7 at a monthly rate of \$2,600. Total estimated annual cost for this placement is \$26,174.

Based on the current level of expenditures and obligations, the estimated budget shortfall is \$90,000 for FY 2000-01. It is now necessary to transfer available appropriations in the amount of \$90,000 from the Probation Index, achieved through salary savings, to the State Correctional Schools Index in order to process payments for the 3rd and 4th quarters of the fiscal year.

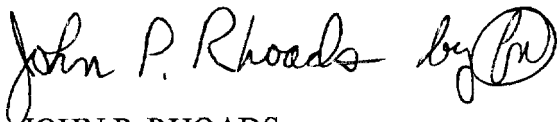
As discussed in this and in previous reports, significant effort continues to be made to address both the short and long term costs associated with the court ordered placement of juveniles. All parties involved in the placement process recognize the fiscal constraints that are placed on the County's general fund by the expenditures in these programs and will continue to closely monitor expenditures in these programs.

IT IS THEREFORE RECOMMENDED that your Board:

1. Accept and file this report on the status of the Care of Court Wards and State Correctional Schools Budget and direct the Chief Probation Officer to continue to monitor and examine the placement process to minimize expenditures; and

2. Approve the attached AUD 74 Transfer Request, authorizing the transfer of \$90,000 from the Probation Budget to the State Correctional Schools Budget to finance the increased cost for juvenile commitments to the California Youth Authority through June 30, 2001.

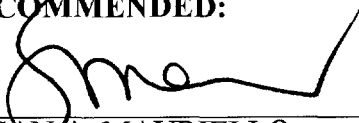
Sincerely,



JOHN P. RHOADS
Chief Probation Officer

JPR:

RECOMMENDED:



SUSAN A. MAURIELLO
County Administrative Officer

cc: County Administrative Office
Auditor-Controller
courts
Probation Department

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

0072

Department: Probation

Date: 2/14/2001

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, 19 2001

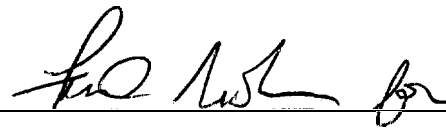
AUDITORS USE ONLY			
DOCUMENT #	AMOUNT	L/N	T/C HASH
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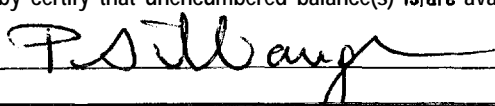
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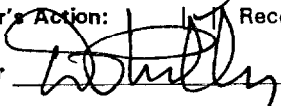
	T/C	INDEX	SUBJECT	USER CODE	AMOUNT	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION *
T R A N S F E R	T O	0,2,1	5,7,6,0,0,0	4,7,2,5	9,000,000.00	Support & Care Persons
	F R O M	0,2,2	5,7,4,0,0,0	3,1,0,0	9,000,000.00	Regular salaries

Explanation:

Transfer salary savings to State Corrections budget for increased costs this fiscal year.

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 , Deputy Date 2-16-01

County Administrative Officer's Action: Recommended to Board Approved Not Recommended or Approved
 County Administrative Officer  Date 2/28/01

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)* Des 22 Item : - Budget Transfer

A-C Review		

Distribution: **22** BRD. NAME AGENDA DATE ITEM NO.
 White-Board of Supervisors Green-County Administrative Officer Goldenrod-Departmental Control Copy
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