

County of Yolo

PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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Community Corrections

Dan Fruchtenicht
Chief Probation Officer

July 19, 2019

Linda Penner, Chair
Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Dear Ms. Penner:

California has seen a historic shift in how youth are referred and served in the local juvenile justice system. While there has been a significant decrease in juvenile crime, reduction in juvenile detention population has also occurred through the Probation Departments increased emphasis on rehabilitation, early intervention, diversion programs, evidence-based risk assessment of youths, and a strong shift toward avoiding detaining youth for non-violent offenses. Yolo County has observed a drastic year-over-year decline in average daily population at the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Facility that has left the facility with underutilized space. The decline in population, combined with the extremely high cost of operating a detention facility, has led our local leaders to consider closing the current Juvenile Detention Facility. The Yolo County Probation Department is seeking approval to collocate Yolo County juvenile and adult offenders in the existing Juvenile Detention Facility (JDF).


Despite the good work and declining population, the need for secure detention still exists to serve the most at-risk youth in Yolo County. Closing the facility would result in Yolo County youth being transported to and housed in other counties, outside the jurisdiction of Yolo County and the Probation Department. In doing so, this would greatly impact the ability for Yolo County Probation Staff to provide quality, evidence-based services that would encourage positive change and rehabilitation. It is believed that Yolo County youth are best served locally by focusing on enhancing youth services and maintaining community and family relationships. Remaining close to their community provides the Probation Department the ability to coordinate access to services without restrictions and maintain local connections while ensuring the continuity of care.

Yolo County Monroe Adult Detention Facility, which is situated in close physical proximity to the Juvenile Detention Facility, is currently pending state funded construction and has an immediate and critical need for space for a temporary adult booking facility. Portions of the JDF space not being used in the Juvenile Detention Facility could be utilized for temporary adult booking purposes and would allow for the Juvenile Detention Facility to remain open, keeping the youth in Yolo County where they are closer to family, local services and in their own community. This collocation proposal would provide the opportunity for Yolo County Probation Department to continue to operate its Juvenile Detention Facility to the benefit of the youth who will continue to receive the same programs and

services with no interruption. This collocated operation proposal would also positively leverage general fund costs for the County.

If our request to collocate youth and adults is approved by the Board of State and Community Corrections, we could move forward immediately to implement this collocation plan. We have already sought technical assistance from BSCC Field Representatives to ensure that all mandates for the adult, juvenile and federal expectations for the proposal are met. Additionally, we will ensure all areas of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Program regulations/requirements are met. We will address each of the criteria related to collocated facilities through an Operational Statement Plan (OPS) and ensure all related architectural design requirements are met. We understand that we will need to submit our architectural drawings and OPS for your review and if approved, will begin facility modification mid-September. We hope you will appreciate the substantial, mutual program and community benefits of our proposal and give it your approval.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Fruchtenicht", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dan Fruchtenicht
Chief Probation Officer