



LADONNA M. HARRIS
Chief Probation Officer

ALAMEDA COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT

400 Broadway
Oakland, CA 94607

May 13, 2015

Kathleen Howard, Executive Director
Board of State and Community Corrections
2590 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Senate Bill 81 Local Youthful Offender Rehabilitative Facilities Project
Alameda County's Request for Scope Change

Summary:

This letter formally requests the Board of State and Community Corrections' (BSCC) approval of Alameda County's proposed revision to the scope of the Senate Bill (SB) 81 Local Youthful Offender Rehabilitative Facilities Program Project by reducing the number of beds to 120.

Background:

At the March 19, 2009 BSCC meeting, Alameda County received a conditional award of \$35 million through the SB 81 Program. The County's submitted application described the proposed scope of work as a new 150-bed Camp.

As presented in the original 2008 SB81 proposal, the existing Camp Sweeney presents significant limitations that impact overall quality of life for the youth. These limitations include inadequate programming space, antiquated academic, vocational and recreational opportunities, and the inability to house the youth by appropriate classification. Also noteworthy are the considerable seismic concerns present on the existing site, which have the potential of significantly compromising the health and safety of the residents and staff.

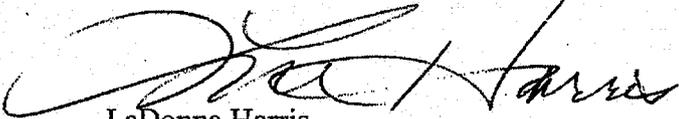
Furthermore, the capacity to serve girls is greatly needed as local camp programming no longer exists with the County, requiring the Probation Department to seek either group home or out-of-county/out-of-state placement options. Not only does this hinder reunification efforts, it also impacts the Department's ability to generate any Title IV-E savings, which could potentially be reinvested in more robust community supervision strategies.

Recent statistics have shown a significant decrease in population of youth housed at Camp Sweeney; therefore, Alameda County has re-validated the projected need based on metrics from 2010 to 2014. Alameda County contracted with Carter Goble Lee, Inc. for an updated Needs Assessment dated April 10, 2015. Given the lower monthly average daily population, the results of the updated Needs Assessment reflect a commensurate reduction in projected need. Alameda County is proposing to change the design from a 150-bed facility to a 120-bed co-ed facility based on this data validation.

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The County understands that its conditional award will not increase and has determined that this scope modification will not impact the budget.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'LaDonna Harris', written in a cursive style.

LaDonna Harris
Chief Probation Officer

Cc: Caroline Judy, Acting Director, General Services Agency, Alameda County
Jim Kachik, Architect, Deputy Director, Technical Services Department, TSD
Rona Rothenberg, Architect, Program Director, Design & Construction, TSD