



GUILLERMO VIERA ROSA
Chief Probation Officer

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PROBATION DEPARTMENT

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February 10, 2024

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

Dear Ms. Penner:

RESPONSE OF NOTIFICATION OF IMPENDING DETERMINATION OF SUITABILITY OF LOS PADRINOS JUVENILE HALL

IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Not accept the report of February 7, 2024, of non-compliance of the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall and postpone the hearing on this report.
2. Authorize the creation of an Operational Reconstruction Strike Team, under contract between the Board of State and Community Corrections and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, to assist in an extensive operational reconstruction of its juvenile hall compliance efforts.

JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUESTED ACTIONS

1. Not accept the report of February 7, 2024, of non-compliance of the Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Padrinos) and postpone the hearing on this report.

The Los Angeles County Probation Department (County or Department) leadership was served the follow-up inspection report and notice of suitability on February 7, 2024, at 5:39 PM via email. The notice provides the County can file a response by Sunday, February 11, 2024. This Board must have the full picture of the tremendous strides the County has made toward compliance with Title 15 and the plan to address its deficiencies. The County has been under external oversight, court-ordered monitoring, prior findings of non-compliance, and an unsuitability finding of its prior detention facilities. This cycle must end, and a sustainable plan must be created. Therefore, due to the lack of time between notice and the hearing and the need for a comprehensive reconstruction plan of

its detention services, the County requests this Board not accept the report for Los Padrinos at this hearing and postpone the hearing on this report until a time the County can adequately respond, and the Board can properly review the findings and evidence.

2. Authorize the creation of an Operational Reconstruction Strike Team, under contract between the Board of State and Community Corrections (BSCC) and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, to assist in an extensive operational reconstruction of its juvenile hall compliance efforts.

The County requests the BSCC's assistance. The County envisions an Operational Reconstruction Strike Team that consists of Probation designated subject matter experts. This group would be made up of statewide experts in the field of juvenile corrections: detention superintendents, safety and security, programming, use of force, and other key areas of facility operations. This team would join our recently formed local strike team. We would deploy target-focused teams to units to provide coaching and training in the fundamental practices essential to meeting and sustaining BSCC Title 15 compliance. Our local resources will benefit from integrating subject matter experts with a pattern of success in meeting Title 15 standards.

This request is not unprecedented. The BSCC's predecessor – the Board of Corrections (BOC) – created a group of BOC experts to work with Placer County's Probation Department to create a Departmental Organizational Assessment in 2003. This assessment was at the request of Placer County for the BOC to address and create a plan of action to address the structural and operational effectiveness of its detention services. Los Angeles County's request is substantially similar. The County would lead this effort in partnership with the BSCC.

The County recognizes the point-in-time deficiencies described by the BSCC field staff, but such deficiencies do not rise to a finding of unsuitability. The County has addressed many of the previous findings of non-compliance and is actively addressing its deficiencies. The new leadership of the Los Angeles County Probation Department recognizes the need to rebuild the culture of its facilities from the ground up – this takes time and expertise – expertise that the BSCC can convene to strengthen our local efforts.

Resources and staffing for probation agencies across the state are limited and they cannot safely absorb nearly 300 youth from our juvenile hall. Therefore, it must be a collective effort to repair the collapsed culture of the largest county's juvenile hall. The County needs help doing this from the experts in this field. Such a transformative change approach does not fit into statutory corrective action periods which gives rise to this unique, but not unprecedented, request. The largest County in the State recognizes it must make transformative change and it wants to make that change, but it cannot do it alone, we need your assistance.

Linda Penner, Chair, BSCC

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CONCLUSION

The County requests this Board not accept the report of February 7, 2024, and postpone the hearing on this report because the County recognizes its deficiencies and has been in a long cycle of oversight, court monitoring, and non-compliance that a plan to provide sustainable change is necessary to end this cycle for the benefit of the youth in our care. The County further requests this Board authorize the creation of an Operational Reconstruction Strike Team, under contract between the BSCC and the Los Angeles County Probation Department, to assist in an extensive operational reconstruction of its juvenile hall compliance efforts.

Sincerely,



Guillermo Viera-Rosa
Chief Probation Officer