

Response to Grand Jury Report dated June 4, 2001

FINDING 3: *“....not all inmates are released into Probation-run programs.”*

RESPONSE: We agree with the finding. The two jail release programs operated by the Probation Department are County Parole and Electronic Monitoring (EM). Electronic Monitoring is actually a “stricter” level of service than parole and could be expanded. The resources to do an expanded parole process to relieve overcrowding at the jail would require almost daily Parole Board reviews. Currently the Parole Board meets once every two weeks. Should the parole process be expanded at the jail by having more frequent Parole Board reviews, the increase workload generated by the action would require additional probation officers to supervise the higher caseloads.

RECOMMENDATION 19b: *Use all Prop 36 funding for eligible women on Probation.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented because it is not reasonable based on the following information:

The Substance Abuse Crime Prevention Act of 2000 (Prop 36) has a very broad target population to be served by the \$1.8 million received by Santa Barbara County. The Proposition mandates probation and drug treatment for defendants convicted of “non violent drug possession offense(s)” (Penal Code 1210.1(a). The intent of the Proposition is to divert the non-violent drug offenders from incarceration to community based treatment programs. The Board of Supervisors appointed a multi-agency County Planning Committee who estimate that Santa Barbara County will have approximately 2,200 Prop 36 cases. Resources received by the County are to be used to fund services for the entire group of eligible clients not

just “women on probation” or women at the Female Honor Farm/La Morada as suggested in recommendation 20a& 20b.

FINDING 20: *There is more need for substance abuse programming for County women.....at the current Female Honor Farm Facility.*

RESPONSE: The Probation Department is not in a position to evaluate the treatment programs at the Sheriff’s Department Honor Farm.

RECOMMENDATION 21: *The Probation Department should administer Proposition 36 funds in the County.*

RESPONSE: This recommendation will not be implemented for the following reason.

On February 13, 2001, the County Board of Supervisors took action which included the forming of a multi-agency Collaborative Policy Council to advise on the use of funding received by the County for the implementation of Proposition 36. In that same action they designated the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department as the lead agency with responsibility to administer the \$1.8 million dollars received by the County. It should be noted that the Probation Department is a part of the policy council charged with designing the implementation plan.