

May 27, 2003

Honorable Clifford Anderson
Presiding Judge
1100 Anacapa Street
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
Santa Barbara, Ca 93121

Subject: Grand Jury Report Titled "Criminal Justice Committee – Detention Facilities"

The Public Works Department commends the Grand Jury for their efforts in seeking innovative solutions to try to reduce on-going taxpayer costs. The Department was requested to address Finding 7 and Recommendation 7 (b).

Finding 7: After the weekend parties and holiday celebrations, there is a huge amount of rubbish to be cleaned up at taxpayer expense.

Response to Finding 7: The Public Works Department agrees that there is a higher incidence of litter following weekend parties. This litter is typically focused on Del Playa Drive or other areas of high student density.

Recommendation 7(b): Use inmates from the Honor Farm and/or Juvenile Hall to assist in the cleanup. This would be an alternative to using County/private services.

Response to Recommendation 7(b): The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. Currently, there are a variety of programs in place to address the issue of refuse accumulation in Isla Vista. Outside of trash and recycling services covered under the County of Santa Barbara's franchise agreement with the local service provider for Isla Vista, there are also two programs which deal specifically with collecting heavy accumulations of trash in Isla Vista. First, the Public Works staff utilizes people from the Sheriff's Work Alternative Program (SWAP) to help clean up trash at times when large quantities of trash are generated. This service requires minimum participation by County/private services in the form of supervision. If inmates from the Honor Farm and/or Juvenile Hall were used, they would require more supervisorial participation than using the SWAP people. In addition, the Isla Vista Parks and Recreation District has developed an Adopt-A-Block program to clean area streets. In general, volunteers from the community clean each street with assistance from the Parks

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Department. Again, this program uses minimal County/private services by utilizing volunteers and if one were to use Honor Farm and/or Juvenile Hall to assist in the cleanup, it would probably end up requiring more County/private services and expenses in the form of supervision than are used under the Adopt-A-Block program.

If you have any questions regarding this information, contact Mark Schleich at 882-3605.

Sincerely,

Phillip M. Demery
Public Works Director

C: Mark Schleich, Deputy Director Solid Waste & Utilities Division