



# County of Yolo

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### Community Corrections

**Brent Cardall**  
Chief Probation Officer

#### Partners and Stakeholders,

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) is grateful for the opportunity to work with members of the public to update and strengthen Yolo County's AB 109 Realignment Plan. After three years of new responsibilities and difficult decisions in managing Realignment impacts, members of the CCP and community stakeholders have revised countywide priorities with the assistance of a nationally recognized planning and technical assistance provider, The Crime and Justice Institute. Throughout this process, CCP members recognized the importance of communication and the need for an open exchange of information regarding the AB 109 process, where resources are directed and whether or not the strategies adopted are working or need further refinement. At all times, the main focus of the CCP members has been to prevent criminal recidivism in Yolo County.

To this end, the April AB 109 Countywide public meetings allowed all CCP participants to discuss programs and activities unanimously implemented by CCP members in the past three years. The programs outlined were deliberately designed to mitigate for an already full jail governed by a Federal Consent Decree, potential impacts to crime rates, the near-overwhelming increase of state prisoners released to Yolo County, and a gap in treatment services across all communities. The documents attached illustrate the scope and funding levels of these programs. In each public meeting, community members presented CCP members with their unique perspective regarding Realignment and provided constructive feedback for future countywide AB 109 planning efforts.

Some difficult realities were confronted during these public meetings. First and foremost, in 2013, crime rates across the County increased, particularly property crime rates. And while details for the rate increases in particular types of crime is critical to determining trends for planning purposes, the analysis is dependent upon an internal review of the actual incidents of crime and those arrested for each city CCP members reviewed the available aggregate part one crime trends provided by all the city police departments, and while the rates have increased, there is no clear, single reason that drives the increases. The only exception to this quandary is the crime rate for property crime.

But it is an extremely complicated and evolving set of issues that the members of the CCP confront on a daily basis and it makes clear cut analysis difficult. However, the members of the CCP working with the experts at the Criminal Justice Institute, continue to analyze the available data and provide effective, adaptive management practices where and when appropriate. The entire AB 109 population of Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) offenders and 1170(h) non-violent, non-serious, non-sexual offenders sentenced since October 2011 are under review to determine the County's rate of recidivism and it is intended that the findings will be compared to historical trends of state parole recidivism averages. This analysis should be completed sometime in June. However, until such an analysis is complete, County staff believes it is premature to conclude that AB 109 Realignment has impacted crime rates positively or negatively.

### Local Law Enforcement

From the outset of the AB 109 planning process, frontline law enforcement has been an important part of the comprehensive list of strategies to mitigate AB 109 impacts. The current funding provided to local law enforcement out of funding received from the State has been fully supported by the members of the CCP and it is the four Chiefs of Police who have devised the distribution of funds amongst their membership. The members of the CCP believe

that the most pressing task is to identify and implement the most effective strategies to successfully re-enter this offending population. Policing is an important part and the relationship Probation has with each individual city department is critical to maintaining compliance of this population. Some cities have received more PRCS offenders than others, but the PRCS population is now currently 50% of what it was when it peaked at 190 active cases countywide in January of 2013. The PRCS population has seen a steady decline as offenders complete supervision successfully or are returned to custody. Strong leadership has been demonstrated by all four city police departments in supporting this relationship.

### **Release of Prisoners**

As explained by Sheriff Prieto in the public outreach meetings, the County Jail is currently full and under a Federal Consent Decree that dictates the maximum number of prisoners that can be in the jail at any one time. With the influx of AB 109 returnees to the County it has become all too clear that we do not possess the resources to finance the necessary jail bed expansion **and** provide programming to produce successful community re-entry of offenders at the same time. The Sheriff and his staff have developed systems and programs in conjunction with local law enforcement to manage the arrest activity of the cities and make sure offenders who pose a risk to the community stay in jail, but the procedures to manage the jail population are case by case because the jail population is extremely fluid.

Those who commit lower level crimes are screened by the Jail and the Probation Department staff to determine eligibility for Probation's Pre-Trial supervised release program. Pre-trial Supervision has demonstrated nationally recognized levels of success in supervising offenders through their court proceedings and making sure they don't violate their terms and conditions including new offense activity while not in jail. The jail electronically monitors eligible sentenced offenders to alleviate the population further. The EM Program uses 3M GPS devices that require offenders to keep them charged so as to track their whereabouts and make them easily searchable in the community. If an offender's monitor stops operating for any reason, an immediate alert is sent to jail staff and law enforcement is dispatched to determine the reason for not charging the monitor and re-jailing if appropriate.

Jail staff allow sentenced offenders the option for work release in Probation's Alternative Sentencing Program (ASP). ASP provides inexpensive lawn maintenance services to cities and jurisdictions around the county Release decisions and the programs charged with mitigating jail overcrowding are new and are continually reviewed for fidelity to their models and their level of success. The CCP contracted with CJI not only for technical assistance to update and strengthen local planning efforts, but also to organize evaluations based on national best practices of the programs Yolo County has implemented. Due in June, CJI's evaluability study will map out the ways to evaluate each CCP program which in turn will allow CCP members to determine what is working and what isn't. The actual program evaluations will begin after the study is completed.

The population of offenders returning from state prisons to county probation department does have criminal histories beyond their commitment offense that have prompted heightened levels of supervision by Probation. Unfortunately, Probation and the Community Corrections Partnership have no control over who is released from state prisons. That process is governed by statute from AB 109 and implemented through the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Members of the CCP have shared community anxiety over the types of PRCS offenders released because of the other offenses in their criminal history. Concerns around these release processes are directed to local legislative representatives and associations representing department, county, and city interests that maintain dialogue with legislative representatives and the governor's office. Release decisions from other county jurisdictions are not under Yolo County's control.

The CCP and Yolo County are open and willing to request addition funds from the state to aid in assisting city interest to expand programs specific to their city population. That said, the CCP supports requesting an expansion of Governor Browns set aside for cities to manage AB 109 issues. Yolo County plans for programs for the entire system, and must work to find holistic solutions that reduce recidivism for all our residents. AB 109 dollars are meant to mitigate the realignment of incarceration and supervision responsibilities from the state to the counties. The majority of funds have been directed toward making sure those public safety obligations are met.

Thank you for continuing to be a part of the process. Please find additional supporting documentation with this memo that should provide clarity on how the funds have been allocated, studies performed on the activities so far, and information pertaining to the legislative intent of AB 109/117.

Thank you,

Brent Cardall  
Chief Probation Officer  
Yolo County Probation Department