



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

*Sharon Jensen*  
County Administrator

Beth Gabor  
Public Information Officer

625 Court Street, Room 202 • Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 666-8150 • FAX (530) 668-4029  
www.yolocounty.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
February 27, 2008

Contact: Beth Gabor, Public Information Officer  
(530) 666-8042 [w] • (530) 219-8464 [c]

## **Yolo County Victim Restitution and Service Fee Collections**

**(Woodland, CA)** – Yolo County has announced the collection of nearly \$800,000 in victim restitution and service fees during the period July 1 to December 31, 2007. This volume of collections is the result of the combined efforts of Yolo County's Probation Department, District Attorney, Department of Employment and Social Services and the Collection Services unit of the Auditor-Controller's office.

"Taking care of crime victims is a top priority," said Jeff Reisig, Yolo County District Attorney. "In the past year, the District Attorney's office has redoubled efforts to do all we can, and should do, to help Yolo County's crime victims and their families. There is no such thing as closure for the victims of crime, but collecting restitution for them is one thing that can be done to help heal the wounds inflicted by the criminals who have turned lives upside down."

In felony matters, probation officers are responsible for enforcing all court-ordered victim restitution orders while Collection Services tracks, collects, receives and disburses a majority of those funds. In the instance of welfare fraud, the Department of Employment and Social Services receives and disburses funds and in the instance of check fraud, the District Attorney's office receives and disburses funds. Should an offender fail to pay, state tax refunds are intercepted or wages garnished by Collection Services. Legislation is being sought to allow seizure of federal tax refunds as well.

"Victim restoration and offender accountability are primary focus points within the mission of the Probation Department," said Don L. Meyer, Yolo County Chief Probation Officer. "We are on track this year to collect more from offenders than ever before."

From July 1 through December 31, 2007, nearly \$137,000 in victim restitution was collected from both juvenile and adult offenders. Additionally, an estimated \$161,700 of restitution was collected by the District Attorney for bad checks and the Department of Employment and Social Services collected approximately \$127,000 related to welfare fraud cases.

"Recouping welfare monies obtained fraudulently allows us to maintain the integrity of the programs we administer and allows us to better serve the residents of Yolo County who qualify for aid," said Pam Miller, Yolo County Department of Employment and Social Services Director.

For the same time frame, probationer service fees totaling \$249,400 were collected. These fees help cover costs for pre-sentence court investigations, offender supervision, work program user fees and juvenile hall expenses. Collection Services also collected approximately \$63,200 in jail booking fees and \$61,700 in public defender fees to help offset the cost of services provided.

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