



COUNTY OF YOLO

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Probation Tracks Offenders with GPS

(Woodland, CA) – Recently, the Yolo County Probation Department started using Global Positioning System satellites (GPS) paired with radio frequency monitoring to supervise high-risk offenders in the community. This new capability enables the department to locate an offender at any time during the day to within approximately 50 meters.

Using mapping software available on a secure internet connection, a probation officer can now track the whereabouts of an offender 24 hours a day. The new system alerts the officer via e-mail, text message or telephone if an offender has entered an area specified as off limits.

As a result of the passage of Senate Bill 81 last August, non-violent juvenile offenders have been shifted out of state facilities and returned to the county of their residence. GPS tracking has broadened the supervision and custody options for minors previously under the supervision of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Currently the Yolo County Probation Department is using GPS tracking to supervise one sex offender in the community. It has enabled the department to track where he is on a minute-by-minute basis which helps enhance public safety as he reintegrates into the community.

“Pursuant to Jessica’s Law and other state statutes, high risk sex offenders will have to be outfitted with the GPS system starting July 1,” said Chief Probation Officer, Don L. Meyer. “The GPS system can be utilized on other offenders as well. This will provide our probation officers the ability to hold offenders more accountable and will enhance public safety. An offender’s every movement can be tracked, allowing us to match offender location to any reported crimes in a particular area. It also allows our probation officers to exclude areas that the offender can visit or inhabit.”

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Note: members of the media interested in testing out the Yolo County Probation Department’s new GPS capability should Don L. Meyer, Chief Probation Officer at (530) 406-5320.