



# COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 4, 2008

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## **Victim Restitution Collection in Fiscal Year 2007/08**

**(Woodland, CA)** – The Yolo County Probation Department, working with the Yolo County Auditor-Controller's Collection Services division, collected \$779,269 in victim restitution for fiscal year 2007/08 from persons allowed by the courts to remain in the community on formal probation. This includes \$247,548 from offenders to reimburse victims of crime.

When victim loss exists, probation officers request court orders for restitution and then act to enforce that order by securing regular payments from offenders. If payment is not made, officers may proceed to have probation revoked or violated, and the offender may face custody in either the county jail or state prison. In fiscal year 2007/08, probation officers initiated violation proceedings in court on 706 persons on felony probation. Nearly all were later sanctioned by the court with additional jail, or sentenced to prison. Additionally, \$531,721 in probationer "user fees" was collected. By law, a probationer may be ordered to pay fees for preparation of adult court presentence reports, probation supervision in the community, juvenile hall care costs, or community service/work program participation in lieu of jail.

As victim restoration is a priority for the Yolo County Probation Department, probation officers notify victims of their legal rights which include advance notice of sentencing hearings, the right for input and the right to request restitution for their losses. "Although there is much still to be done in helping to restore victims, at least this is some measure of victim restoration combined with offender accountability," notes Chief Probation Officer Don L. Meyer

During this past year, making victim restitution payment has been made easier. Payments are now accepted by ATM/credit card by calling (530) 666-8668 or can be made in person with ATM/credit card, cash, check or money order at the following Woodland locations (check or money order payments can also be mailed to the below addresses):

- Probation Department: 2780 E. Gibson Road, Mondays-Fridays 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.
- Juvenile Detention Facility: 2880 E. Gibson Road, Mondays-Fridays 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.
- Alternative Sentencing Office: 45 Matmor Road, Mondays-Saturdays 7:45a.m.-3:45p.m.
- Yolo County Collection Services: 625 Court Street, Room 103, Mondays-Fridays 8:00a.m.-4:00p.m.

"It is important for probationers to understand that making regular or full payments will keep them in compliance with court orders and likely prevent formal violations of probation being filed with the court," notes Rob Gonzales, Yolo County Assistant Probation Officer. Questions should be directed to Rob Gonzales (530) 406-5320.

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