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# MANDATED REPORT

# **PROBATION DEPARTMENT AND PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT**

## **SUMMARY**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury finds that both the Sheriff's Department (incarceration) and the Probation Department (controlled monitoring) face new challenges daily in dealing with more serious offenders who would previously have been the responsibility of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR).

The Probation Department's Adult Services Division has in place the policies and procedures to meet the challenges of Assembly Bill (AB)109 – The Public Safety Realignment Act.

Services and personnel are inadequate to meet the needs in the Los Banos area. The Assistant Chief Probation officer stated that 20% of the County's probation cases are handled at the Los Banos Probation Office. Many of the rehabilitation services available in Merced such as a Day Reporting Center (DRC) and a Probation and Community Team (PACT) are not available in Los Banos. The Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Probation Department contract with BI (Behavioral Intervention) to establish a center and work with local non-profits to form a PACT.

The Civil Grand Jury finds that the Sheriff's Department is not a collaborating agency of the Community Corrections Partnership's Vocation, Education, and Employment Programs (VEEP). This program conducts assessment, training and education to better prepare offenders for the workforce. The Civil Grand Jury recommends that this should be started during time of incarceration and Probation should invite the Sheriff to be a collaborating agency.

The Civil Grand Jury acknowledges that insufficient time has passed since the enactment of AB109 to provide statistical analysis of any short or long term effects of this legislation. The statistical analyst should develop and track programs that include rates of recidivism, program outcome and cost.

The Civil Grand Jury acknowledges the cooperative effort of the Probation Department, other county departments, and local non-profits in their efforts to facilitate the reentry of offenders into this community.

## **INTRODUCTION/BACKGROUND**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury must investigate and report on the operations, accounts and records of at least one county officer, department or function each year. (PC §925 and PC §933(a)).

The Civil Grand Jury elected to review the Merced County Probation Department Division of Adult Operations to better understand the impact of the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB109) on the citizens of Merced County.

## **METHODOLOGY**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury interviewed the Sheriff, Chief and Assistant Chief Probation Officers, the Adult Program Manager, the Adult Intake Supervisor, two Supervising Probation Officers (SPO) and the SPO in charge of the Los Banos Office. The Civil Grand Jury also interviewed formally and casually, line level probation officers (PO), a deputy district attorney and a deputy public defender.

The Civil Grand Jury observed the operations of the Drug Court and the Mental Health Court. The Civil Grand Jury attended a monthly Probation and Community Team (PACT) meeting, toured and received a detailed overview of BI Incorporated's facility, observed a designated probation sweep, toured and observed the operations of the AB109 Day Reporting Center (DRC).

## **DISCUSSION**

### **PUBLIC SAFETY REALIGNMENT (AB109)**

On April 4, 2011 Governor Edmund G. (Jerry) Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill (AB) 109 - The Public Safety Realignment Act - into law to become effective October 1, 2011. AB109 transfers responsibility for supervising specific lower level inmates and parolees from the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to the counties. Prior to implementation of AB109 the maximum sentence in any county jail was 365 days or less. Since implementation of AB109 multi-year sentenced offenders are being incarcerated in county jails. AB109 allows non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual offenders (three-nons) to serve their sentences in county jails instead of state prisons.

Under Public Safety Realignment:

- No inmates currently in state prison will be transferred to county jail.
- No inmates currently in state prison will be released early.
- All felons sent to state prison will continue to serve their entire sentences in state prison.
- All felons convicted of current or prior serious or violent offenses, sex offenses and sex offenses against children will go to state prison.

County Level supervision will not include:

- Inmates paroled from life terms to include third-strike offenders.
- Offenders whose current commitment offense is violent or serious, as defined by California's Penal Code §§667.5(c) and 1192.7(c).
- High-risk sex offenders, as defined by CDCR.

- Mentally Disordered Offenders; nor
- Offenders on parole prior to October 1, 2011.

One of the primary objectives of AB109 is to close the revolving door of low-level inmates cycling in and out of state prison. It is also the cornerstone to California’s solution for reducing the number of inmates in state prisons as ordered by a three judge federal panel and affirmed by the United States Supreme Court.

The CDCR continues to have jurisdiction over all parolees of record prior to AB109 implementation. County level supervision of offenders released from prison will include non-violent, non-serious (irrespective of prior convictions) and non-sexual offenders. The responsibility for parole revocation of inmates released to County supervision is with local courts. The responsibility for parole revocation of inmates by the CDCR will transfer to County courts on July 1, 2013. The CDCR estimates Merced County’s “average daily population” (ADP) after full implementation of AB109 in approximately three years to be:

• Post-release Community Supervision	211
• Parole & Community Supervision violators	44
• Sentenced to local incarceration under AB109	<u>173</u>
	<u>428<sup>1</sup></u>

AB109 amended the California Penal Code, Section 1230 to provide for local Community Corrections Partnerships (CCP) to recommend a plan to the County Board of Supervisors. The CCP, chaired by the Chief Probation Officer, is also responsible for allocating the State funds to the various County and City agencies. An Executive Committee of the CCP is made up of the following:

- Presiding Judge, Merced County Superior Court
- Sheriff
- District Attorney
- Public Defender
- Mental Health Director
- Chief of Police, Merced
- Chief Probation Officer (Chair)

The CCP plan may include recommendations to maximize AB109 dollars on programs such as DRC, drug court, residential multi-service centers, mental health treatment, Global Positioning System (GPS) monitoring, victim restitution, counseling, community service, education and work training.

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<sup>1</sup> Merced County Public Safety Realignment & Post Release Community Supervision 2012/2013 Strategies

A number of trailer bills to AB109 were signed into law in 2011 to secure sufficient funding to the counties. AB109 provided a dedicated and permanent revenue source to counties through Vehicle License Fees (VLF) and a portion of the State sales tax. In November of 2012, California voters passed a temporary sales and income tax increase (Proposition 30) which created a Constitutional amendment prohibiting the Legislature from reducing or removing realignment funding to the counties. Four hundred million dollars were provided to the counties in fiscal year (FY) 2011-2012; this amount grew to more than \$850 million in FY 2012-2013 and will increase to more than one billion dollars in FY 2013-2014.

Merced County received \$2.825 million in FY 2011-2012 based on the County’s ADP. The 2012-2013 funding is \$5.209 million with mid-year adjustments due to Prop 30 and increased state revenues. The funding breakdown as established by the CCP is:

Probation Operations	40%	\$2,061,698
Sheriff’s Operations	40%	\$2,081,368
Treatment and Educational Services	18%	\$940,564
County Analyst	2%	\$125,000

**DIVISION OF ADULT OPERATION – MERCED COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

The Merced County Probation Department administrative office is located at 2150 M Street, Merced, CA. The Adult Probation Department is located at 3191 M Street, Merced, CA. The Los Banos office is located at 445 I Street, Los Banos, CA. The Division of Adult Operation recently opened an AB109 DRC in conjunction with the Sheriff’s Department and the Mental Health Department at 777 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Merced, CA.

The Department’s “...mission is to administer corrective services that hold offenders accountable for their behavior and provide rehabilitative services in order to strengthen and protect our community”.<sup>2</sup>

The Department is organized into three divisions: administrative, juvenile, and adult. The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury chose to focus on the adult division. There is an adult services manager, three supervising probation officers (SPO), and twenty-four probation officers (PO) assigned to adult operations. The SPO in the Los Banos office supervises both adult and juvenile POs. All management, SPOs, and POs have a minimum of a four year college degree, many in criminal justice or social work. The Adult Intake SPO and the six POs are responsible to provide the court with bail assessment information and sentencing reports. This group enters Adult Intake Interview-Computer Input to gather personal history and contact information. They also complete the Static Risk and Offender Needs Guide (STRONG). All inmates released from jail or sentenced to probation are assessed to determine level of supervision. Approximately 300

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<sup>2</sup> [www.co.merced.ca.us/probation](http://www.co.merced.ca.us/probation)

clients are assigned to each of three administrative supervisors. Other supervisors assign probationers to a specific PO based on the probationers' primary need.

AB109 and AB117 realignment gave counties responsibility to manage two populations of offenders who have been the responsibility of CDCR.

- (1) Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS) parolees are accountable to Probation Officers who use validated assessment tools to connect offenders with community services and programs.
- (2) Local offenders (PC1170(h)) can be sentenced to incarceration, or a split sentence of incarceration followed by a mandatory term of supervised probation. These offenders have been convicted of a felony offense that is non-serious, non-violent and non-sexual ("the three nons").

Statewide only 23% of offenders sentenced to county jail have received split sentences. In the first year after implementation of AB109, Merced County sentenced 136 of 214 (63.6%) offenders to split sentences.<sup>3</sup>

Merced County Probation assesses offenders while still in jail or state prison to determine appropriate interventions. Split sentences allow for pre and post release planning and coordination with probation to create a mandatory supervision plan. Research shows that when a person is released from prison, a re-entry plan that ensures an individually targeted transition from jail to structured programs and supervision will provide the best opportunity to lower recidivism. Current research shows that the best outcome requires eighteen months of supervised probation.

Offenders requiring supervision are assigned to a PO based on their primary need as determined by the ONG portion of the STRONG assessment. Such factors as alcohol/drug use, mental health, aggression, attitudes and behavior as well as criminal history determine placement. Probationers are re-assessed every six months. The Merced County Probation Department has reduced and maintains a case load size of high risk PRCS offenders to fifty per PO to ensure proper levels of supervision.

The Department promotes a philosophy of a social worker client relationship mixed with a law enforcement attitude. This balance is flexible depending on the level of a person's criminal history. The greatest challenge appears to be seeing the individual's potential beyond the crime(s) committed.

## **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PARTNERSHIP**

The Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) 2012-2013 strategies document provides for various treatment and recommended programs. The Department is in the early stages of developing a collaborative program for Vocation, Education, and Employment Programs (VEEP) as part of the re-entry effort. The intent of the program is to conduct

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<sup>3</sup> Chief Probation Officers of California, Volume 1; Issue 2

educational and employment readiness assessments for clients who are either in or out of jail. The objective is to identify career fields, career interest and training and educational needs. The Probation Department, Human Services Agency, Workforce Investment and the Merced County Office of Education are the collaborating agencies. The Civil Grand Jury notes that the Sheriff's Department is not a collaborating agency.

The CCP budget allocates money (\$125,000) to hire a County Analyst to meet the data collection requirements of AB109. Data is to be collected from the Sheriff's and Probation Departments for the following analytical purposes:

- Rates of recidivism: probationers, split sentence, and PRCS offenders
- Program success of all AB109 programs
- Jail population impact
- Community crime rates
- Cost effectiveness of AB109 efforts

The Sacramento Bee<sup>4</sup> recently editorialized that Chief Probation Officers of California and other associations who deal with AB109 offenders each voluntarily collect some data, but there is no uniform statewide monitoring of recidivism; and other data vital to judging the success of the AB109 re-entry program.

## **DRUG COURT**

The Civil Grand Jury observed the Drug Court held at the Superior Court of California County of Merced. Drug Court combines step-by-step positive re-enforcement combined with legal consequences. Participants in the Drug Court program have significant drug and/or alcohol problems with extensive arrest records. Drug and alcohol addiction is their primary cause for committing other crimes such as theft or burglary. In addition to daily classes, the Court requires frequent drug and alcohol testing. The Civil Grand Jury observed a "pep rally" atmosphere where participants cheered announcements of time periods of clean testing. Clients who have minor set-backs face legal consequences on another day in court. Drug Court brings together Probation, Mental Health, the Public Defender and the Courts to work to modify the behavior that leads to other crimes.

## **MENTAL HEALTH COURT**

The Civil Grand Jury observed the Mental Health Court held at the Superior Court of California County of Merced. This court started in April of 2012, and is modeled on the success of the Drug Court. It is a collaboration of Superior Court, Mental Health and Probation Departments, Public Defender and District Attorney. The Probation Department has designated a PO to oversee PRCS and probation offenders who have high levels of behavioral health needs. The court may impose alternatives to jail sanctions or order the offender into custody for violations of their terms and conditions of probation. The court also reinforces and supports the offender's treatment plan. Offenders

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<sup>4</sup> [www.sacbee.com/2013/04/25/whyisn't](http://www.sacbee.com/2013/04/25/whyisn't)

are referred to the court to be acknowledged for successes. This court is in its early stages of formation and success of the program cannot yet be measured.

## **AB109 DAY REPORTING CENTER**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury visited the AB109 DRC, known as the Trident Center, housed in a County owned building at 777 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, Merced, CA across from the Sheriff's Department Headquarters. This facility opened in February 2013. The AB109 DRC serves as the equivalent of a Sheriff's sub-station and a satellite adult probation office. This building is open during normal business hours. The building contains an area for individual deputy and PO work cubicles, a large classroom, conference rooms, and separate offices for other County agencies. Secured areas store both departments' electronic monitoring/ankle bracelets.

The CCP established this one stop location to serve both PC1170 offenders and PRCS clients. Deputies monitor those offenders released from jail prior to the end of their period of incarceration. All PC1170 offenders are monitored twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week by GPS. Deputies are notified immediately by text message to their iPhone™ of any geographic violation. It also notifies the deputies if the bracelet is cut or disabled.

All recently released State prisoners are required to report within twenty-four hours of release to the DRC. After the initial assessment by an intake officer, PRCS clients are assigned a PO and periodically report as instructed. Home and/or workplace visits are also conducted. Random drug testing can be administered. There are three PO's, each with a case load of not more than fifty clients. There is a PO in Los Banos assigned to PRCS clients.

Services to the AB109 re-entry population by the Human Services Agency (HSA) and Mental Health Department are scheduled to commence in early May 2013. The SPO has scheduled County agencies on a regular basis to serve the needs of clients at this location. Other agencies and non-profits have shown an interest in utilizing the classroom or conference rooms for small group meetings. The HSA will initially conduct classes centered around "Leadership for Life" curriculum. Leadership for Life is a curriculum of workshops designed to introduce programs that impact families by offering an opportunity to practice related skills.

The Civil Grand Jury observed a cooperative effort in planning and execution of a sweep of Sheriff's PC1170 offenders and Probation's PRCS clients. Cooperation between the two agencies led to a well-coordinated round-up where random alcohol/drug tests were conducted, outstanding warrants were checked and contact information verified. The Civil Grand Jury was also briefed on a situation where a PC1170 offender received services for mental illness prior to becoming the responsibility of the Probation Department. This illustrates the cooperation between these two agencies.

This DRC monitors the activities of Merced County's most high-risk incarcerated prisoners on GPS monitoring and DRCS clients. The focus of the Trident Center is to rehabilitate and adhere to the re-entry concepts of AB109. The SPO stated that early results of the County's programs show a marked decrease in recidivism by those who complete probation.

## **BI (BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTION)**

The County of Merced Probation Department contracts with BI (Behavioral Intervention), Inc. to operate a DRC for the highest risk probationers. This nationally recognized firm provides clients with professionals and proven programs not offered by County agencies.

Merced County has contracted with BI since 2007; the current contract runs through June 30, 2013. The County initially awarded BI a contract for a GPS monitoring program. BI was then awarded a DRC contract to provide a re-entry program and services for fifty adult offenders in March 2008. The adult contract has been amended to sixty-five adult clients. The FY 2012-2013 contract is for \$699,996. This money is fully funded by AB109.

The Merced BI-DRC provides intensive supervision, monitoring, treatment, and educational services. The DRC operates with the objectives of reducing recidivism, decreasing the County's jail population and increasing public confidence in the community's safety.

The BI-DRC, located at 3345 M Street, Merced, CA, is within walking distance of public transportation, near the Probation Department, the Court House and other community agencies. The building provides two group rooms, individual counseling rooms and staff offices. Even though the clients are the highest risk probationers, there has never been an altercation on the premises.

BI provides the following services:

- Orientation and assessment
- Development of a behavior change plan
- Daily check-ins
- Alcohol and drug testing
- Substance abuse counseling
- Anger management
- Community service
- Parenting skills
- Job re-address and employment assistance
- Life skills
- Aftercare
- Substance abuse education and treatment

- Education services – literacy, General Education Diploma (GED)
- Community Connections

BI works on the principal of targeted intervention. They assess the client's specific needs in order to reduce the chances of the client being rearrested. Clients and their families are made aware that a condition of their probation is participation in the program; not complying with any aspect of the program will result in sanctions. Selection is typically based on:

- Probation for felony offenses
- Risk of re-incarceration
- Likely benefit from program

There are four levels of supervision at the BI-DRC. Each client starts in the most intensive level and progressively moves through the program. The level of supervision and time spent at the center depend upon actual behavioral changes.

Alcohol and drug use is strictly prohibited including medical marijuana. Substance abuse is evident in 80% of probationers entering the program. Each time a client reports to the BI-DRC they are required to submit to a breathalyzer test. A positive reading can lead to placement in a substance abuse program. If the test reading is very high, the client will be taken to jail or a hospital for detoxification.

Each client must submit to random drug testing. Any positive reading will be reported in an incident report; there will be an assessment for possible placement in a substance abuse group. Clients with medical marijuana cards are allowed to continue in the program but cannot graduate. BI has seen a number of clients stop using medical marijuana in order to graduate from the program. Since 2008 four hundred client/offenders have been involved in the program. The average length of involvement is 150 days although the program is designed for eighteen months. The average attendance is 89% for a minimum of twenty hours per week. Thirty-six percent who successfully completed the program have been rearrested.<sup>5</sup> Due to the criminal history of participants, a low success ratio is to be expected. Even a few successes benefit the community.

The Civil Grand Jury found that there were extensive services available to clients, strict alcohol and drug standards and extensive hours of operation. The BI-DRC building operates from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday and noon to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. These hours also accommodate clients that have found employment through the BI-DRC efforts.

The Civil Grand Jury noted, based on interviews with BI and the Probation Department, that per client costs estimates vary widely. The continuous movement of clients into and removal from the program makes it difficult to judge its success.

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<sup>5</sup> BI program terminations from DRC reports, dated February 17, 2013

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **PROBATION AND COMMUNITY TEAM**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury attended a monthly breakfast meeting of the Probation and Community Team (PACT) voluntarily sponsored by Gateway Church, 353 E. Donna Drive, Merced, CA. This probation orientation meeting provides recently released probationers and post release offenders with a “one-stop shopping” location to learn about community resources. Although this meeting is a one-time requirement, clients can use the services as often as needed. “PACT helps returning citizens and their families get what they need to succeed as they re-enter society.”<sup>6</sup>

PACT meetings provide a breakfast prepared by the church, motivational speakers and access to state/local government agencies and community non-profit representatives. Over fifty groups participate in PACT (Workforce Investment, Child Support Services, Merced County Office of Education, Adult Literacy Program, Alcoholics Anonymous, Love/Faith/Hope Baptist Church, Total Self Insight and many others).

### **LOS BANOS**

The Los Banos Probation Office supervises and provides limited services to clients in Los Banos, Dos Palos, Santa Nella, and Gustine. The office has responsibility for supervision of both juvenile and adult clients as well as court intake. The three adult PO’s supervise PRCS and mandated community supervision, high risk, sex, drug, property crimes, and gang affiliates. One adult intake PO handles court presentence reports, good and work time credits, sentencing and assessment of new clients.

There are limited county and community resources. The one Mental Health Department clinician has a three to four month backlog for counseling. The Los Banos SPO stated that the majority of clients have mental health issues. There is no DRC, but some PO’s require some clients to report several times a week to the probation office. Some clients are referred to Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and the local Salvation Army. There are no education classes except parenting classes at the Merced College Los Banos campus. Services such as Mental Health Court, Drug Court, AB109 DRC, BI, and PACT are not offered in Los Banos. Limited availability of transportation makes it difficult for clients to travel to Merced for these services.

The Assistant Chief Probation Officer estimated that 30% of court cases and 20% of probation clients are managed by the Los Banos office. The Civil Grand Jury visited the Los Banos Probation Department office. The office is located in the Ted Falasco Justice Center. This building houses one courtroom, the Sheriff’s Department, Probation Department and satellite offices of other County departments. The actual probation office is very crowded. The close proximity of offices in this building compromises

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<sup>6</sup> Probation Orientation Meeting Brochure

confidentiality. PO's must share office space. The Los Banos staff had two vacancies at the time of our interview. Staff is cross trained and has the ability to multi-task.

## **FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

F1. The intent of the Community Corrections Partnership's VEEP program is to conduct educational and employment readiness assessments/training for clients who are either in or out of jail. The Probation Department, Human Services Agency, Workforce Investment and the Merced County Office of Education are the collaborating agencies. The Civil Grand Jury notes that the Sheriff's Department is not a collaborating agency. AB109 inmates are serving multi-year sentences. This time would be better spent pursuing educational, vocational and life skills.

**R1. The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the VEEP collaborative group includes the Sheriff's Department.**

F2. Prior to AB109 offenders could serve no longer than a year in a local jail.

F3. The Sheriff stated that limited educational opportunities have been provided by a prison ministry program.

F4. AB109 mandates that non-violent, non-serious, and non-sexual offenders serve their sentences in county jails instead of state prisons.

**R2, R3, R4. The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury recommends that assessments to identify career interest, training and educational needs should start in jail as a transition to probation and re-entry into the community.**

F5. Statistics on success and completion of programs implemented to facilitate AB109 re-entry programs were not available. The Civil Grand Jury realizes that this program is in its infancy. A statistical analyst was included in the 2012-2013 CCP budget.

**R5. The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Probation Department's AB109 statistical analyst develop a report that includes rates of recidivism, program successes and cost.**

F6. The Civil Grand Jury found that Los Banos Probation Department does not have a day reporting facility, drug court, mental health court, BI, or a PACT.

F7. There is limited public transportation from Los Banos to Merced which makes it difficult for clients to attend the programs offered in Merced.

**R6 and R7. The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury recommends that the Probation Department establish a Probation and Community Team (PACT) in Los**

**Banos with local non-profits. It is further recommended that the Probation Department contract with BI for a Los Banos center.**

## **COMMENDATION**

The 2012-2013 Merced County Civil Grand Jury recognizes that both the drug and mental health courts are positive interventions. Frequent monitoring, multiple agency reports, and acknowledgement of successes should increase a client's likelihood to transition back into the community.

The Civil Grand Jury commends the Supervising Probation Officer of the AB 109 DRC for developing a full calendar coordinating office hours for county departments and community non- profits to meet the needs of the clients.

Senior management encourages group effort throughout the department. The Chief holds a monthly meeting with different line level personnel and has an open door policy. Morale appears to be high despite having to do with less. All levels of the Department take great pride in functioning at a high level.

## **GLOSSARY**

<b>AB109</b>	Public Safety Realignment Act
<b>Jail</b>	A county incarceration facility. Prior to AB109 used for terms of less than a year and while awaiting trial
<b>Parole</b>	Conditional release from State custody
<b>PC1170</b>	Felon previous sentenced to State Prison who now serve their time at a local jail
<b>Prison</b>	A State incarceration facility
<b>Probation</b>	Conditional release of an offender from local custody
<b>Recidivism</b>	Relapse into crime by a previously convicted criminal

## **ABBREVIATION GLOSSARY**

<b>ADP</b>	Average <b>D</b> aily <b>P</b> opulation
<b>BI</b>	<b>B</b> ehavioral <b>I</b> ntervention
<b>CCP</b>	<b>C</b> ommunity <b>C</b> orrections <b>P</b> artnership
<b>CDCR</b>	California <b>D</b> epartment of <b>C</b> orrections and <b>R</b> ehabilitation

<b>DRC</b>	<b>Day Reporting Center</b>
<b>PACT</b>	<b>Probation and Community Team</b>
<b>PO</b>	<b>Probation Officer</b>
<b>PRCS</b>	<b>Post Release Community Supervision</b>
<b>SPO</b>	<b>Supervising Probation Officer</b>
<b>STRONG</b>	<b>Static Risk and Offenders Needs Guide</b>
<b>VEEP</b>	<b>Vocation, Education, and Employment Programs</b>

### **DISCLAIMER**

Grand Jury reports are based on documentary evidence and the testimony of sworn or admonished witnesses, not on conjecture or opinion. However, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing such evidence except upon the specific approval of the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court, or another judge appointed by the Presiding Judge (Penal Code Sections 911, 924.1(a) and 929). Similarly, the Grand Jury is precluded by law from disclosing the identity of witnesses except upon an order of the court for narrowly defined purposes (Penal Code Sections 924.2 and 929).