



A Tradition of Stewardship  
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Department of Corrections

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Director

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TO: Community Corrections Partnership

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**Subject: Electronic Monitoring Program**

### **Recommendation**

The Director of Corrections requests input from the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP) on the use of \$63,000 from the Local Community Corrections Account for the purpose of increasing the use of electronic monitoring, Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD) and related drug screening services as alternatives to incarceration. This amount will provide the necessary funding to continue the increased use of these services for the remainder of FY 11/12. The Local Community Corrections Account currently has \$928,797 available for Realignment related expenses.

### **Executive Summary**

With the passage of AB 109 Realignment the Department of Corrections is anticipating an increase in its Average Daily Population (ADP), over the first year, by 77 inmates (70 inmates due to sentencing changes and 7 beds needed for flash incarcerations). The Department is currently operating at or near its rated capacity (264) on a daily basis. Without the increased use of alternatives to incarceration such as the electronic monitoring program the Department will have a difficult time mitigating the population increase.

This amount of increased stress on the jail operations due to the population increase would most likely result in significant issues related to the safety and security of inmates and staff. The ability to increase the use of



the electronic monitoring program will help alleviate some of the operational stress related to the anticipated increase in ADP, and manage the program based on operational needs rather than inmate's ability to pay the related fees.

### **Background**

The Director of Corrections is proposing the use of \$63,000 from the Local Community Corrections Account to continue to increase the electronic monitoring program to help the Department lower its ADP. Monitoring options include Global Positioning GPS, traditional radio frequency and Transdermal Alcohol Detection (TAD). The TAD has an alcohol monitor built into it and is the preferred method of monitoring offenders in the community due to its success in detecting alcohol use.

With the passage of AB 109 Realignment based upon the numbers provided by CDCR, it is estimated that approximately 70 additional beds (increased ADP) will be added to the Napa County Jail population over the first year of realignment if no other alternatives to incarceration are implemented. Another 7 beds will be required to address parole violators and probation violators County Parole feel need to be flash incarcerated. Napa County Jail currently has a 264 rated capacity and has been at capacity for several months and at times exceeded 300 inmates in custody. An addition of 77 beds would create an enormous burden to the County as the jail simply does not have the ability to house these additional inmates within the current facility without seriously jeopardizing safety and security. Adding beds in hallways, recreational areas, and dayrooms are the only options available to the jail under critical conditions. However, these measures create unsafe conditions for both staff and inmates and create liability for the County as it would be difficult to ensure that all inmates receive their constitutionally guaranteed rights.

Presently, Napa County has taken steps to address the urgent needs by creating a pre-arraignment release process through the Probation Department, the use of house arrest, County parole, and weekly meetings with criminal justice stakeholders to consider inmates for early releases and alternatives to incarceration programs. These steps are within the parameters established by the County's Public Safety Realignment and Post Release Community Supervision 2011 Implementation Plan and have had the intended result of addressing the immediate needs of the Department and have reduced the jail population. The Plan stated reductions in recidivism would be an important policy direction, but not the only one. It went on to state that in addition to reducing recidivism, alternative sanctions that produce few reductions in recidivism may still be merited if they generate less financial and human cost and save jail beds. By expanding the electronic monitoring program, the County is maximizing the number of offenders who may be placed into this program in conjunction with other control mechanisms.

For the past 15 months pre AB 109 Realignment the average cost for electronic monitoring and related drug screening was approximately \$2,500 per month. Currently, post AB 109 Realignment, the electronic monitoring, TAD and related drug screening costs are approximately \$7,000 per month and increasing on a month by month basis. These costs are almost triple the electronic monitoring, TAD and drug screening costs pre Realignment. The Department estimates the monthly cost for an increased electronic monitoring program will be between \$9,000 and \$11,000 per month which is equivalent to using 263 days of TAD, 183 days of GPS and 64 drug screenings in a month (or 15 jail bed days saved)

Electronic monitoring is offered on a fee for service scale based on the technology selected. The Department of Corrections utilizes an approved fee schedule to charge inmates when appropriate to offset the cost of electronic monitoring, but with the current and future increase of inmates related to AB 109 the Department will not have the luxury of denying someone an alternative to incarceration solely based on their inability to pay the related fee. With the need to increase the use of electronic monitoring and the potential inability to collect the related fees additional funds are needed to support the Department's efforts to lower its inmate population.

The funds will allow the Department to continue to increase its use of the electronic monitoring program which should alleviate some of the issues related to the anticipated increase in population. Without the additional funds it will be difficult for the Department to increase its electronic monitoring program to the levels needed to augment the anticipated increase in ADP.