Shasta County

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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July 18, 2017

The Honorable Gary Gibson
Presiding Judge, Shasta County Superior Court
1500 Court St., Rm. 205
Redding, CA 96001

Dear Judge Gibson:

Re: Response of Board of Supervisors to Fiscal Year 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report: GPS Ankle Bracelet Monitoring and Law Enforcement

The Shasta County Board of Supervisors appreciates the time and dedication which the 2016-2017 Grand Jurors contributed to their charge. The following findings and recommendations are under serious consideration and discussions are being held regarding solutions to any unresolved problems.

RESPONSES AND FINDINGS

FINDINGS

The Grand Jury findings:

F1. ***Due to the State's increased release of offenders to counties for supervision, the burden on the County for monitoring those offenders is increasing.***

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F2. ***Emerging monitoring technologies such as smart phone applications utilizing facial biometrics may offer cost-effective and efficient options to complement GPS ankle monitoring and improve offender supervision.***

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

F3. ***Currently, not all offenders on monitoring programs are actively monitored for compliance 24 hours every day, which may lead to delayed responses by Probation or Sheriff's Office staff to violations.***

Response: The Board of Supervisors disagrees partially with the finding. The Board of Supervisors disagrees with the portion of the finding that not all offenders on monitoring programs are actively monitored for compliance 24 hours every day. The Board of Supervisors disagrees that not actively monitoring all offenders 24 hours every day may lead to delayed responses by Probation or Sheriff's Office staff to violations in that not all offenders on monitoring programs require 24 hour monitoring every day.

F4. ***GPS ankle bracelet monitors are an effective supervision tool, as evidenced by the low recidivism rates for offenders in the SOR and Work Release programs.***

Response: The Board of Supervisors agrees with the finding.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Grand Jury recommends:

R1. ***By July 1, 2018, the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff-Coroner direct staff to work with the Community Corrections Partnership to jointly determine if additional funding sources will be necessary to expand monitoring programs in anticipation of an increased offender population.***

Response: The recommendation has already been implemented. The recommendation is already a part of the County's ongoing efforts in this area. The County works with the Community Corrections Partnership routinely and seeks additional funding when it is available.

R2. ***By March 31, 2018, the Board of Supervisors direct staff to explore and report back if smartphone applications utilizing facial biometrics would be a cost-effective option for expanding current monitoring programs.***

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. At this time there is insufficient funding to implement the recommendation.

R3. ***By December 31, 2017, the Board of Supervisors and the Sheriff-Coroner direct staff to jointly explore and report back if contracting 24-hour GPS monitoring services to SHASCOM would be cost-effective and efficient.***

Response: The recommendation will not be implemented because it is not warranted or is not reasonable. The offenders on the GPS monitoring system are low-level offenders and are not considered a threat to public safety. The after-hour offender violations have been low and contracting with SHASCOM, should they have the staffing available, would not be cost-effective or efficient.

This concludes the responses of the Shasta County Board of Supervisors to the FY 2016-2017 Grand Jury Report entitled "GPS Ankle Bracelet Monitoring and Law Enforcement."

Sincerely,

DAVID A. KEHOE, Chairman
Board of Supervisors
County of Shasta

LGL:jd