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April 27, 2010

To: Hon. D. Scott Daniels  
Presiding Judge

From: Supervisor John M. Vasquez  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

Re: *February 5, 2010 Grand Jury Report - Fouts Springs Youth Facility*

Honorable Judge Daniels:

The following, under Penal Code sections 933 and 933.05, is the Solano County Board of Supervisors' response to the findings and recommendations contained in the 2009-2010 Grand Jury Report of February 5, 2010 relating to the Fouts Springs Youth Facility.

### **Finding 1**

While there is sufficient land and adequate housing for 162 wards, staffing levels only provide for a maximum of 60 wards. At the time of the Grand Jury's visit, there were 43 wards participating in the Fouts program. Several California counties send wards to the facility.

### **Responses to Finding 1**

Probation - Probation agrees with this finding.

Board of Supervisors - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding.

### **Recommendation 1**

The Probation Department should actively solicit court placements from other counties.

### **Responses to Recommendation 1**

Probation – This recommendation has been implemented as part of continuous efforts to improve marketing of the program. A new marketing DVD is being finalized and so far this year outreach efforts have resulted in two new counties signing contracts. Although the average daily population was 43.3 for the first quarter of the fiscal year, it rose to 48.92 in the second quarter, and was 52.39 in January 2010.

Board of Supervisors - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury's recommendation.

### **Finding 2**

Solano County has proposed capital improvements to the Fouts Springs land and buildings. There is no incentive to initiate these improvements until Solano County takes ownership of the land.

### **Responses to Finding 2**

Probation – Probation agrees with this finding.

Board of Supervisors - The Board of Supervisors concurs with the Probation Department's response to the Grand Jury's finding. The Fouts Springs Youth Facility is located on "permitted forest service land." Any substantial investments in capital improvements in the Facility must be considered within the context of the permitted use of the land continuing. The county has a 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan and is seeking grant funding..

### **Recommendation 2**

The Solano County Board of Supervisors and the Fouts Springs Board of Directors should continue their efforts to complete the potential trade of land between Solano County and the United States Department Forest Service. This would allow the facility to make much needed upgrades to the water system as well as the grounds.

### **Responses to Recommendation 2**

Probation – This matter is not under the control of the Probation Department.

Board of Supervisors - The recommendation has been implemented. The following update has been provided by Waterman and Associates, the County's federal lobbyist:

- Legislation allowing the federal government to convey to Solano County land in the Mendocino National Forest was approved by the House of Representative (House) last

September. H.R. 1043 was introduced by Congressman Miller on February 12, 2009, and passed by the House on September 8, 2009.

- In the Senate, Senator Feinstein attempted to attach S 1571 to one of the final legislative vehicles moving through the Senate, but congressional leaders decided not to add the language as a policy rider. Senator Feinstein's office indicated that it will explore other possible avenues that would allow the land exchange bill to move forward in an expedited fashion.

Respectfully submitted,



John M. Vasquez, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

CF:

Each Supervisor

Isabelle Voit, Chief Probation Officer

Fouts Springs Board of Directors

Colusa County Board of Supervisors

Colusa County Office of Education