

JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION

JUVENILE HALLS AND CAMPS INSPECTION REPORT

Please respond to the sections that apply to the facility you are inspecting

Facility Name: Sonoma County Probation Camp

Inspection Date: Feb. 5, 2020

Facility Capacity: 24

Last Inspection: Jan. 25, 2019

Address: 7400 Steve Olson Ln.
Forestville, CA. 95436

Telephone Number: 707 565-8900

FAX Number: 707 565-8903

Director: Melissa Segura

Staff Interviewed:

Type of Facility: Camp

Presiding Juvenile Court Judge: Kenneth Gnoss

Commission Chair: Eve Goldberg

Telephone No. 707 565-8164

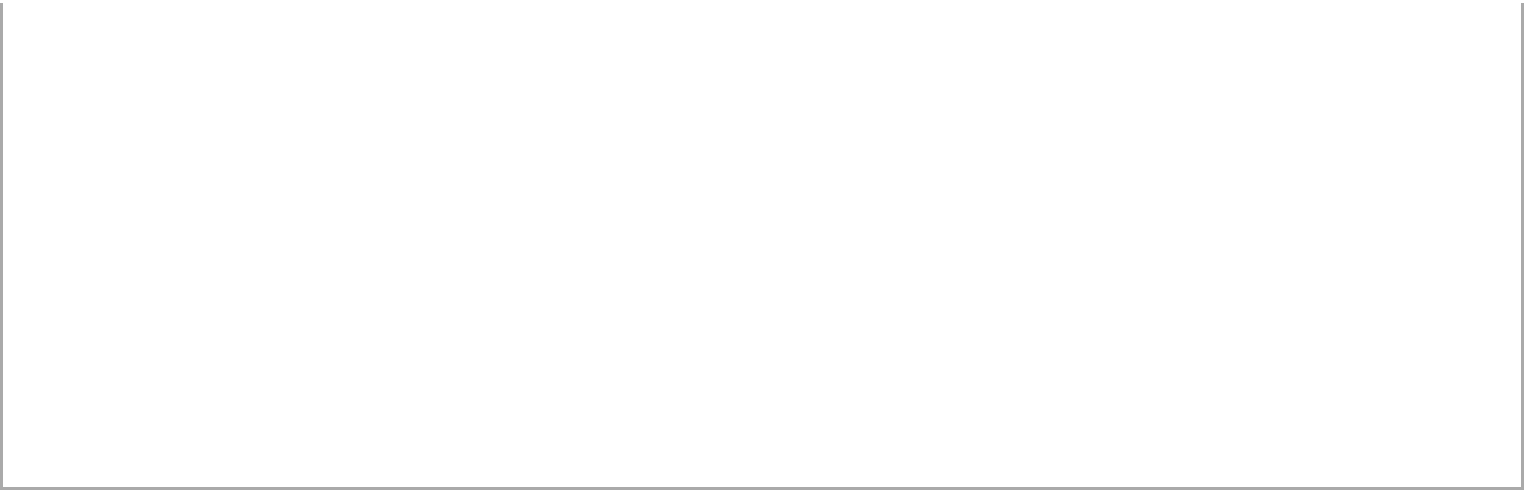
Signature

Commission Inspection Team: Cathy Brooks

Amber Shields

Major Concerns and Recommendations:

The Probation Camp continues to be a valuable asset to Sonoma County, and an especially valuable opportunity for youth who have run afoul of the law. Although it can serve up to 24 youth, its population usually runs about half that number, or less. The staff all seem very committed to seeing the youth succeed, both at Camp and once they are free to re-enter our community. The youth have incredible opportunities to learn job skills, relationship skills, and self control. There is a possibility that in the coming few years the Camp may be restructured to serve youth 18 and 19 years old. The vocational experiences may be of even more value to that age group: young adults needing to support themselves. However, should this transition take effect, I hope very much that the County will develop an alternative to Juvenile Hall for the youth that would otherwise be at Camp. Recommend the staff on running such a positive program.



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AREA REVIEWED: Please Check

QUALITY OF LIFE	PROGRAMS	PERSONS INTERVIEWED
X Physical Plant	X Educaton	X Minors
X Meals/Nutrition	X Vocation/Employability	X Director
X Mental Health	X Community Service	X Vocational Teacher
X Physical/Dental Health	X Victim/Gang Awareness	
X Religious Services	X Substance Abuse	
X Volunteer Involvement		
X Visiting		(Counselors)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?

No. The residential capacity is 24. The range throughout 2019 was 5-14. In addition the Camp supervises youth in aftercare (youth no longer living on site, but who are still under County orders).

Does the facility house minors under Section 601 of the Welfare & Institutions Code?

If "yes", are 601's separated from 602's?

No. Only 602's.

Date of Last Fire Drill: Jan. 31, 2020

SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:

Number of Suicides: 0

Number of Attempted Suicides: 0

Number of Deaths From Other Causes:

0

Number of Escapes:

10

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SLEEPING ROOMS (Cells)

Comments:

There are two sleeping areas directly off the central supervising station. All bunks are clearly visible to staff. Each area has twelve beds. Bedding is changed weekly. More new mattresses were installed in November, 2019. Also, the Camp bought new comforters and pillows in late 2019. At the time of this inspection, the youth were taking turns showering before dinner.

LOCAL INSPECTIONS

Fire: **Date:** 12/12/2019
(Health & Safety Code Section 13146.1)

***Medical/Mental Health:** **Date:** 12/11/2019

***Environmental Health:** **Date:** 11/19/2019

***Nutritional Health:** **Date:** 10/15/2019
(Health & Safety Code Section 101045)

Facility Safety and Security: 12/27/2019
PREA (Prison Rape Elimination Act)

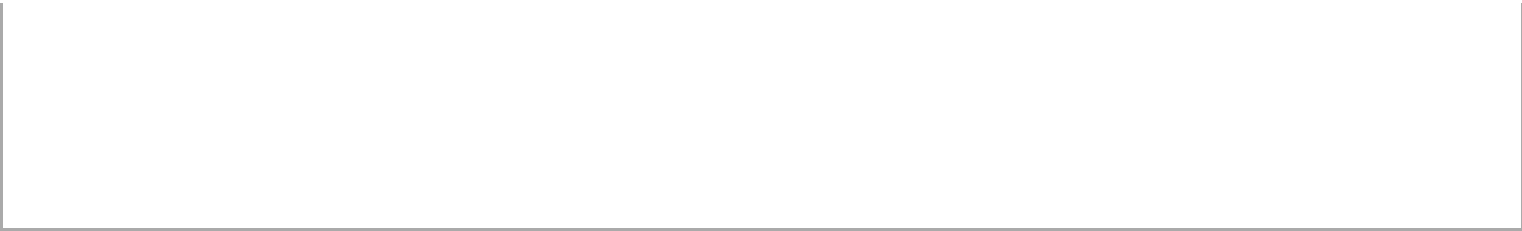
STAFFING

Staff To Child Ratio - Awake and Sleeping:

The ratio is a minimum of 12:1 for both awake and asleep. There are two staffing supervisors; one works Sunday—Wednesday, the other Wednesday —Saturday.

Communication In Language Minor Can Understand?

All Camp residents speak English, although some have family members who speak only Spanish. Bilingual Spanish -speaking Camp staff is almost always available. In addition, there is always a bilingual staff member available by phone at juvenile Hall.



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STAFFING (Continued)

Diversity of Staff:

There are 15 male staff members and one female, plus one female administrative aide. Twelve of the staff are Caucasian, and 5 are Hispanic. Not included in the numbers above are supplemental “extra help” staff, usually retired Camp staff averaging about 15 hours/month.

Staff/Minor Interactions:

We spoke with three youth. One was working in the kitchen prepping salad for dinner. The other two accompanied us on the tour of the facility. We spent about an hour with them. They had a positive attitude toward Camp, and described the many skills they were learning in the workshops. They demonstrated a very comfortable rapport with the Director. Their only request for any changes at Camp was a desire for ipads.

Staff Interviews - Comments:

We met a few of the staff as we toured the Camp. All displayed good rapport with the youth and director. Staff turnover is very low here.

CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS

Lawns, Playing Fields, Blacktop, Asphalt, Other:

The Camp is near SRJC Shone Farm, set in open country with views of hills and fields. There is a fresh open feel to the campus. A gardener maintains the raised beds, but most of the landscape away from the asphalt-surrounded buildings is left wild. There are two basketball hoops, and a baseball diamond a short walk up the road.

EXTERIOR OF BUILDING

General Condition, Paint, Roof, Drains/Gutters, Other:

The buildings are old, but cared for. The single pane windows in the schoolroom were replaced with double paned in April 2019. A request for roof and gutter replacement is pending. The paint appears fine.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING

Walls, Paint, Floors, Drains, Plumbing Fixtures Working, Air Vents, Windows:

The building interior also is well cared for. New carpet was installed two years ago. The floors were clean, and the communal areas were tidy. There is a wood-burning fireplace that does not get used.

Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?

Chemicals are locked in a storage closet when not in use. Youth are supervised when using cleaning products; laundry room chemicals are replenished by staff.

Weapons Locker Location:

There are no weapons at Camp. Staff carry pepper spray and handcuffs. Martin chains are available as needed. Pepper spray, handcuffs and Martin chains are kept locked in a security cabinet. There is an evidence locker in the Administration area.

Recreation/Sports Equipment:

Youth have at least one hour each day to exercise but most choose to do more. A workout program is provided by staff. Youth are often outside, as the main building where the beds and kitchen are located, is a short walk to the classroom and workshops. On rainy days the youth can do rec inside, under cover outside, or in the upper warehouse area. Activities include basketball, volleyball, soccer, baseball, ping pong and use of medicine and kettle balls. During free time, depending on the youth's step (level), he can play video games.

Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?

Not applicable.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Court Holding Area - (If present) Access to drinking water and toilet?

Not applicable

Sleeping Rooms/Dormitories:

See "Sleeping Room" p. 3

BEDS - Type? 12" off the floor:

The beds are metal cots with new mattresses (Nov. 2019). Each youth has a metal foot locker attached to the underside of the bed. The beds are at least 12" off the floor. There are plenty of blankets and pillows.

Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?

Youth keep their personal possessions in their metal footlockers. The footlockers have combination locks, and the youth are expected to keep the footlockers locked.

Graffiti Present?

None seen.

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INTERIOR OF BUILDING (Continued)

Ample Blankets?

The heater is set for 68 degrees. Each youth has two blankets and a bedspread.

Study Area:

Youth are able to study in the dayroom, in the quiet room, in the study area, in the dining room, on benches outside, or on their beds. They have access to a computer kiosk (limited internet access), in addition to the computers in the classroom.

Adequate Lighting:

There are lots of windows for natural light, and ample light fixtures. Bedtime is 9:30, with “lights out” at 10:00 p.m. Night lights remain on all night for safety.

Temperature:

The interior temperature is 68 degrees.

ORIENTATION OF MINORS

Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?

Youth are given a handbook and oriented by a caseworker. The handbook is available in English and in Spanish. The youth must pass a written test demonstrating understanding of the system and rules as their first program step.

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ORIENTATION OF MINORS (Continued)

Are rules and grievance procedures posted?

Yes. They can also be found in the handbook, a copy of which is always available in the common area.

Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?

A Juvenile Justice Commissioner reviews the grievance and incident reports monthly.

Minors Interviewed - Comments:

The two youth who accompanied us on our tour recognized the benefits of the program. They said everyone was treated fairly. They are learning good employment skills (carpentry, welding, electrical). One is taking on-line classes at SRJC; the other is working toward his GED.

MEALS/NUTRITION

Kitchen - Clean; Are Knives and Chemicals Locked?

One youth was working in the kitchen prepping a dinner salad. The kitchen appeared clean, and the knives and chemicals were locked in cabinets.

Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?

The youths must hold a Food Handlers Certificate before working in the kitchen. (The Food Handlers Certificate is another skill easily transferred to employment.) The chef plans and shops for the meals; he supervises the youth in food preparation.



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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are meals served or cafeteria style?

Youth pick up their milk, then serve themselves from the salad bar. Next they carry their plates to the hot food area where they are served by the kitchen workers. They sit at four-person assigned tables. Fruit is always available for snacks.

Are minors permitted to converse during meals?

Yes, they may talk with their table-mates.

Are staff present and supervising?

Yes, there is constant supervision.

Is a weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?

Yes, the chef plans and posts the menus ahead of time. He prepares a variety of foods, and is able to accommodate special diets as needed.

Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?

A JJC commissioner visits Camp monthly. Any time food is being cooked or served it smells delicious. There is usually enough food for “seconds”, and there is always fruit available.



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MEALS/NUTRITION (Continued)

Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?

Camp does not allow “sharing” food. All mealtimes are well supervised.

Length of time allowed to eat:

Youth have at least 30 minutes to eat.

PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS

Appearance?

Youth are well groomed. Most wear their hair short, and clothing is always clean.

SHOWERS - Frequency, Privacy Maintained, Supervised by Staff? Any assault by other youths?

Youth shower every evening. All showers are supervised by staff. There are four shower stalls separated by half walls for privacy. There is a reminder posted at the bathroom exit to “tuck it in” (shirt).

CONDITION OF CLOTHING - Does clothing fit? Clothing appropriate to the weather?

Most youth wear jeans and a gray short sleeved shirt or gray sweatshirt. Belts are required. Youth new to Camp (still on Orientation), and youths being transported to/from the Hall wear orange shirts. Youth do their own laundry.

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PROGRAMS

RECREATION - Types and amount each day:

See "Recreation" p. 5.

EXERCISE - Daily schedule and amount of time each day:

See "Recreation" p. 5.

Access to religious services:

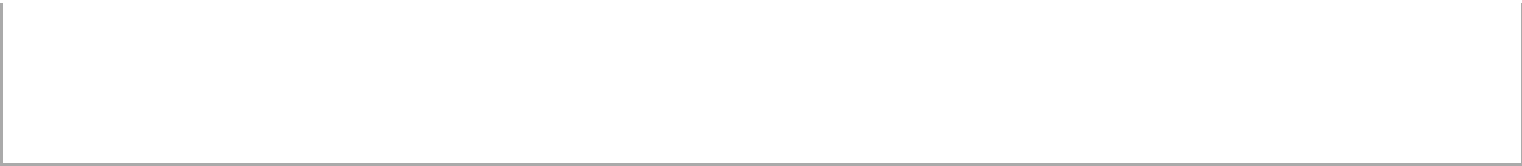
Youth on furlough can attend services with their families. Youth remaining on-site have access to volunteer spiritual advisors on Sundays.

Medical/Mental Health Services:

There is a nurse practitioner at Camp one day each week. Youth are transported to routine doctor appointments by parents or staff. In an emergency youth are transported immediately by staff. Mental health services are provided by two therapists. One is at Camp Wednesday through Saturday (32hours). The other, a bilingual therapist, is available one day every other week. This therapist does most of the the family counseling. Each resident sees the therapist at least once each week. A psychiatrist comes to Camp once month to monitor psych medications and make referrals.If youth need dental care, they are seen by a dentist at the Hall or in the community. Regular dental cleanings and screenings are not scheduled since the youth generally stay only six to nine months at Camp.

Volunteer Program:

There are two or three non-denominational spiritual advisers available. Volunteer tutors help youth during class time. There is a "friendly visitor" program in place for visiting days, but is not currently active. On Thursdays a volunteer helps with welding. A new electrician program started in January 2020, taught once or twice each week by a volunteer.



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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Counseling and Casework:

Each youth is assigned a case worker who works closely with him throughout his time at the Camp. Each case worker works with up to five youth. In addition, youth meet weekly with a therapist for private counseling. Youth also attend family counseling.

Family Reunification Planning:

Family reunification is a primary goal at Camp. Both the furlough program and family therapy work towards this end.

Substance Abuse Counseling:

AODS (Alcohol and Other Drug Services) provides individual and group counseling. There are optional weekly meetings alternating between Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous. Youth returning from furlough are drug tested.

Victim Awareness Classes:

A major focus of the Camp program is Victim Awareness. Youth can earn money while at Camp, and so can start making restitution payments. Camp also works with Restorative Resources for Restorative Conferencing.

Gang Awareness Classes:

Staff addresses gang issues as needed in their casework. There are also Aggression Replacement Training (ART) classes twice a week.

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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Sexual Harassment Classes:

Sexual harassment is taken seriously at Camp. It is addressed from Day 1 during Orientation. There is a Sexual Harassment Prevention policy in place, and it is strictly enforced. "Healthy Relationship" classes are taught twice each year, each session lasting 8-10 weeks. Verity does a TAPP program during school hours (Teen Assault prevention Project).

Parenting Classes:

Teen Parent Connection (TPC) works with the teen parents. Also, Camp youth who are fathers or fathers-to-be can attend parenting classes in the community if their significant other and child can attend. The Nurse Practitioner can advise about services and programs in the community. There are parenting books in the Camp library. And parents of Camp youth can participate in a weekly "Parent Group" while their son is at Camp.

Vocational Classes:

The residents have outstanding opportunities to learn job skills. They receive vocational training in woodworking, forklift operation, welding, electrical and culinary arts. They learn to make picnic tables, benches, planters, display cases, fire rings, BBQ's, bear-proof food storage containers and other products sold to state/county/regional parks and the public. Last year they sold 444 picnic tables. They sometimes go on deliveries, honing their customer skills. They may earn their Forklift Operator, Electrical and Food Handler Certificates. The welding instructor has been at the Camp for about a year-and-a-half. He has been able to expand the types of welding the youth learn. A new volunteer electrician just joined the team in January 2020.

Community Service:

Through the Culinary Program, youth have the opportunity to participate in catering jobs in the community. They learn from the chef not only how to prepare the food, but they also learn restaurant etiquette, hospitality and catering protocol. This year the Camp residents helped cater events for the Shone Farm, the Sonoma County Grand Jury and the Partnership Event.

Work Program:

Youth have a multitude of opportunities to gain work skills and experience. All youth leave the program with a prepared resume ready to hand to prospective employers. After completing the residential component of the program, once the youth are in aftercare, the Camp helps them find employment or volunteer positions. The Camp collaborates with Social Advocates for Youth, and various apprenticeship programs. The Advisory Committee helps youth make job connections. There are often guest speakers.



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PROGRAMS (Continued)

Other:

The Camp offers many additional programs including interactive journaling, Aggression Replacement Training (ART), Healthy Relationships, and Core Correctional Practice. The youth went on trips to the Maker Faire, zip lining and snowboarding.

DISCIPLINE OF MINORS

Frequency and Type:

Residents work their way through the Program by step. Most discipline involves counseling the youth and immediate sanctions. The rules are clearly stated in the Handbook and the youth all understand them. Discipline can include having a time-out, early bed, or being assigned extra work on the “weekend reflection crew”. Only in the case of safety is a resident placed on their bed or returned to Juvenile Hall.

GRIEVANCES

Number and Type:

Camp youth have the right to file written grievances regarding sanctions or conditions of confinement. Few residents file grievances. Those that are filed are usually minor complaints, sometimes against a particular staff member. Staff respond to the grievances before they escalate, and the camp Director reviews them. A member the Juvenile Justice Commission reviews the grievances monthly.

TELEPHONE

Access:

Phone use is restricted. Youth may receive calls from parents, guardians and other positive adults with the permission of the caseworker. Youth can make phone calls with staff permission and supervision during free time. They can also purchase phone cards to make additional calls.



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CORRESPONDENCE

Postage Free:

Youth may send 7 letters per week to parents or guardians, postage free. They may also send letters to attorneys, postage free. They may supply additional postage. In reality, most youth don't send much mail because they see their families on weekend furloughs.

INCOMING/OUTGOING - Is mail read?

All mail is scanned for any inappropriate written content or other contraband. There is no limit to the number of letters a resident may send.

Confidential Correspondence:

Youth are allowed confidential correspondence with their attorney.

VISITING

Adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits:

Visiting hours are on Wednesday evenings (one hour), and on Saturdays and Sundays (one-and-a-half hours). No one aged 13-21 is allowed to visit except during family counseling.

Do staff supervise visits?

All visits are supervised by staff.

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VISITING

Adequate privacy during visits?

Visits take place in the large common room, each family at their own table.

Have all minors had visits? If no, give reasons:

Most of the residents receive visits. A few families are not able to make regular visits due to transportation or other issues.

SCHOOL

TEACHERS - Number of full-time; frequency of substitutes:

Sonoma County Office of Education pays for one teacher. In June 2019 his position was cut from full time to 3/4 time (4 hours per day). He teaches all of the residents during a four hour block in the morning. During that time, small groups leave for one hour to work in the welding/carpentry/electrical workshops. A resource teacher comes one day each week for IEP students. In the afternoon all students work in the vocational workshops.

Number of minors attending school:

All youth attend school until they graduate or earn their GED. After graduation/GED the youth have the option of working all day in the shops to learn more job skills; or to be in the classroom to help tutor, use the computers, take online courses at the JC or work on resumes.

Number of minors in each classroom:

Youth are in the classroom while 2-4 youth go to the shops, rotating each 1 hour period.

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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors on independent study:

No residents are on independent study.

Atmosphere of Classroom:

The group studies English together, including reading a novel. The majority of the classroom day is spent in independent study. One youth is taking online classes at SRJC.

Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.

There are plenty of books and computers. There is little lab science equipment.

Activities and Coursework:

The teacher provides both whole class instruction and individualized instruction. Each youth works at his own pace. Curriculum includes standard high school subjects. The teacher runs a fun instructional Bingo game weekly for review.

Are minors required to do homework?

Youth are not required to do homework, but some volunteer to do extra studying to prepare for upcoming tests.



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SCHOOL (Continued)

Number of minors not attending. Reason?

All youth attend school.

Relationship between school and juvenile hall staff:

School staff and Camp staff work collaboratively to ensure that the residents succeed.

Describe access to school, recreation, exercise and recreation for minors confined to their rooms:

Not applicable.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

See Medical/Mental Health Services p. 11.



JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION JUVENILE HALLS AND CAMPS INSPECTION REPORT

Distribution of Juvenile Justice Commission Inspection Reports

Corrections Standards Authority Recommendation

The Corrections Standards Authority recommends commissions prepare and submit an inspection report for each juvenile hall and camp inspected by the commission. We suggest that copies of inspection reports be distributed to the Chief Probation Officer and other pertinent county agencies as directed by the court.

Please submit your annual report to the court and mail a copy to:

ALLISON GANTER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR
CA BOARD OF STATE & COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS
CORRECTIONS STANDARDS AUTHORITY
3590 VENTURE OAKS WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833

ELECTRONIC REPORTING: allison.ganter@bscc.ca.gov as of 1/2017

