



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Probation

Subject: Proposed 2025-26 Budget for Probation Department

Meeting Date: June 4, 2025

Formal Title: Consider approval of the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Probation Department, including any supplemental materials, and take related actions, as outlined in the referenced budget documents, and as recommended by the County Executive Officer

Recommended Action

Approve the Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Probation Department, including any supplemental materials, as provided in the referenced budget documents:

- [Proposed Budget](#)
- [Continuing Agreements List](#)
- Presentation

Executive Summary

The Proposed 2025-26 Budget for the Probation Department supports two divisions: Probation and Juvenile Hall, with funded staffing of 135.00 funded full-time equivalent (FTE) positions.

Discussion

The mission of the Probation Department is to contribute to community well-being through positive engagement, connection to services, and support for those impacted by crime. Department and division operational objectives are shown in the Proposed 2025-26 Budget document and 2025-27 Operational Plan. Both are available online at: www.SCCVision.us

The Probation Proposed Budget includes negotiated salary and benefit increase as well as a change in facility charges to reflect the cost of facility services and utilities. Also included are two capital projects that provide \$20,939,700 included in the [2025-30 Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\)](#).

Anticipated changes in state or federal funding include a \$650,000 reduction due to the expiration of Proposition 47 grant funding, a \$161,904 decrease in federal funding primarily from reduced Title II Formula Grants, a \$90,000 decrease in state-mandated reimbursements, and a \$165,000 decrease in departmental charges for services. These reductions are partially offset by a \$205,000 increase in federal reimbursements for Medi-Cal Administrative Activities.

The budget reflects important service changes, including reduced contracting costs through the establishment of a local Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) program, which keeps justice-involved youth closer to home, strengthens local rehabilitation, and reduces reliance on costly out-of-county placements. The budget also includes enhancements to local infrastructure for Medi-Cal service delivery – funded by CalAIM (California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal) PATH (Providing access and Transforming Health) implementation grants – to support investments in technology, data systems, and procedural development. Additionally, intra-fund transfers to the

Health Services Agency have increased to ensure youth in Juvenile Hall receive integrated, trauma-informed medical and behavioral health care.

Staffing of 135.00 FTE positions is status quo for 2025-26.

Budgeted funding will continue to support ongoing staff work, including the supervision of individuals on probation, monitoring of pretrial clients, investigations and preparation of court reports and recommendations, coordination of services for youth and adults, and care and custody of youth in detention. These efforts promote public safety, accountability, and rehabilitation through evidence-based practices, restorative justice, and collaborative partnerships. Continued funding ensures the department can maintain effective interventions, support compliance with court orders, reduce recidivism, and contribute to equitable and healthier communities.

Over the next fiscal year, the department will focus primarily on responding to the impacts of Proposition 36, which expands probation's role in coordinating mandated treatment and supervising individuals convicted of repeat drug and theft offenses. As felony filings and formal supervision caseloads increase, the department will prioritize resource planning to meet voter mandates and address capacity challenges, particularly in pretrial and Assembly Bill 109 Post Release Community Supervision. In addition, the department will oversee significant Juvenile Hall facility improvements, including the construction of a multi-purpose gymnasium, the launch of the Seed to Table program, and facility renovations. These upgrades will enhance programming and rehabilitation opportunities for detained youth while maintaining uninterrupted facility operations.

Financial Impact

The Probation Proposed Budget includes \$37,381,694 in expenditures offset by \$25,772,820 in revenues, and \$11,608,874 in General Fund contribution. This reflects a total expenditure decrease of \$351,433 or 0.9% from the Fiscal Year 2024-25 Adopted Budget.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety, Operational Excellence

Submitted By:

Fernando Giraldo, Chief Probation Officer

Recommended By:

Carlos J. Palacios, County Executive Officer

Artificial Intelligence Acknowledgment:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) did not significantly contribute to the development of this agenda item.