



County of Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors

Agenda Item Submittal

From: Sheriff-Coroner

Subject: Fire Camp Program Contract

Meeting Date: June 10, 2025

Formal Title: Approve three-year agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the amount of \$100,970 for the Fire Camp Program, and take related actions

Recommended Actions

Approve an agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in the amount of \$100,970 for the Fire Camp Program through June 30, 2028, and authorize the Sheriff-Coroner to sign the agreement.

Executive Summary

The Sheriff-Coroner is requesting to enter into a standard agreement with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) for the purpose of filling inmate positions in the Fire Camp Program through June 30, 2028.

Discussion

The Public Safety Realignment Act transferred responsibility for the custody, parole, supervision, treatment/support services and revocation of individuals whose last conviction was a non-serious, non-violent, or non-sex offense from CDCR to counties. The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office's custody system has a historical population mix of pre-trial, post-conviction/pre-sentence, and, to a limited degree, sentenced inmates with terms of less than 12 months. This public safety realignment has led to longer sentences in local jail facilities and overcrowding issues.

As a result of the Public Safety Realignment Act, CDCR has found it increasingly difficult to supply qualified inmates to support the needs of the California State Fire Camps. The Public Safety Realignment Act allows local law enforcement jurisdictions to contract sentenced inmates back to CDCR for the purpose of filling inmate positions in the Fire Camp Program.

The Sheriff's Office has determined that sending qualified inmates to CDCR for the purpose of working the Fire Camp Program is beneficial to the County and inmates. Inmates assigned to Fire Camp Programs benefit from receiving additional custody credits, counseling, educational and vocational training, such as Sober Living, college correspondence, General Education, associate degree and other services.

The proposed agreement with the State is capped at approximately 10 inmates housed in a CDCR Fire Camp. There is a cost to the Sheriff of \$81 per inmate per day while in fire suppression training at the Training Facility and \$10 per day for each inmate housed in the Fire Camps. The Sheriff's Office renewed a contract with CDCR Fire Camp in 2022, which expires June 30, 2025. This new agreement will extend participation in this program to June 30, 2028.

Financial Impact

The cost for this program is budgeted not to exceed \$33,690 annually, and funding is

appropriated in the GL Key 662300/62381.

Strategic Initiatives

Operational Plan - Comprehensive Health & Safety

Submitted By:

Chris Clark, Sheriff-Coroner

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.