

From: [Board Of Supervisors](#)
To: [Agenda Management Support](#)
Subject: #17 comment_Sexton, P
Date: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:58:45 PM

From: pamelabeth.sexton@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 4:42 PM
To: Board Of Supervisors <boardofsupervisors@santacruzcountyca.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Reject 'camp'; Insist on least restrictive programming for youth

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Dear Supervisors,

I am writing to you about item #17 in the Consent Agenda for the 3/10/25 meeting. As a parent, a teacher, and an engaged community member, I ask you to reconsider your "approval in concept" from the BOS meeting on 2/25/25 and to reject reclassifying part of Juvenile Hall as a "ranch camp", with the deceptive name "Coastal Redwood Academy".

I work with young adults in Watsonville and also facilitate court-mandated Positive Discipline parenting classes for people involved with the Probation Department. In this work, I often see the connection between lack of services or opportunities for youth and entry into the criminal justice system. I am thrilled to be connected with other organizations that serve youth, and see the potential for collaboration in this County to offer wrap around services for youth at home or community based least restrictive programs.

I am unable to join BOS meetings due to it being scheduled when I teach. Last meeting, I tried to give comment during my lunch break but had technical problems. I have, however, watched the previous meetings addressing this issue via the County's online video system.

I want to reiterate two points from the comments I would have made last week:

- 1) Even a short stay in youth detention is bad for youth. The longer the more potential for harm. Understanding this data, we must commit to transitioning youth to the least restrictive appropriate environment, as we have seen successfully done in the county already, and we must use Probation Department funding now used for Juvenile Hall

incarceration for community based solutions.

2) I want to ask that you ask for an audit of the Probation Department, and invite them to answer questions such as:

- * What are the existing racial disparities in youth sentencing and supervision practices?*
- * How does the use of risk assessment tools influence conditions of their supervision?*
- * Are probation officers adequately trained to address the complex needs of youth under supervision?*
- * What data exists to demonstrate the effectiveness of probation in reducing recidivism rates?*
- * Are probation conditions tailored to the specific needs of each individual offender, or are they often overly restrictive?*
- * How can probation be better integrated with community-based support services to promote successful reintegration?*

I am very grateful for the community based organizations that exist in this county. Through transparency and accountability on the part of the Probation Department, and collaboration at the full county level, together we can take action together to meet the needs of youth in need, and make our community stronger, safer and more equitable.

Sincerely,
Pamela Sexton
831-254-0451

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When we dream alone, it is only a dream, but when we dream together, it is the beginning of reality.