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June 27, 1997

Frank Woodson  
Chief Probation Officer  
Ventura county Probation Department  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, CA 93009

Dear Mr. Woodson:

In your phone call on May 28, 1997, you asked the Board of Corrections staff to provide you with our observations regarding the Adult Work Furlough Facility, Building 252, located at the Camarillo Airport to determine whether it would be appropriate for a medium security juvenile camp with secure perimeter fencing.

Jack Pederson and I visited the site with you and your staff, Don Krause, Ellen Gilmore, and Pat Neil, on June 18, 1997. At your request, we evaluated the building against the new Title 24 Minimum Standards for Juvenile Facilities.

### **BUILDING DESCRIPTION**

The Work Furlough building is a two story, wood frame structure that was built in the 1950's. It is located on the site of a former Air Force Base, and the surrounding area contains both public services and private businesses. The structure is surrounded on three sides by public streets, and on the fourth side with an administration and receiving building.

### **PROBLEMS AND CONCERNS**

The following problems and concerns were identified:

#### Building Exterior

- The standard requires 9,000 square feet of outdoor recreational space, half must be paved. The surrounding space is unusable for recreation and program activities.
- Requirement for exterior fencing would be necessary for a medium security camp.
- Relocation or redesign of storm drains as they present a safety hazard.
- Proximity to public swimming pool.
- Lack of adequate clear space for minors and staff to gather in case evacuation of the building is required.

### Building Structure

- Bathrooms would require extensive remodeling to remove obstructed view of shower areas, and to conform to ADA standards.
- Air conditioning required in unimproved west wing.
- Requirement for fire marshal clearance. Preliminary Fire Marshal report indicates sprinklers would have to be installed in the interior of the building.
- Need to re-route or remove overhead plumbing in the sleeping areas, it poses a safety hazard.
- Building corridors are 4'9" wide. The standard requires corridors of 8 feet. Corridors may be 6 feet if sleeping room doors are staggered.
- Requirement for exterior lighting for security and recreation.
- Windows would require security glazing.
- Requirement for night lighting in sleeping areas.
- Requirement for emergency power.

### Facility Staffing

The facility would require richer staffing than required by the standard for the following reasons:

- Dining area is across a public street and outdoor recreation area is one and one-half blocks away. Escorting minors to these areas would be staff intensive, and increase the probability of incidents.
- Dining and outdoor recreation areas are used by work furlough. A schedule would have to be developed in order to separate minors and adults.
- A wall separates the east and west wing on the second floor creating difficulty in staffing and emergency response.

### **SPACE REQUIREMENTS**

The facility capacity cannot be determined at this time as it would be dependent on the design of the space. Most of the space requirements listed below are not available. If the facility is remodeled to meet these requirements, the capacity of the facility would be severely reduced.

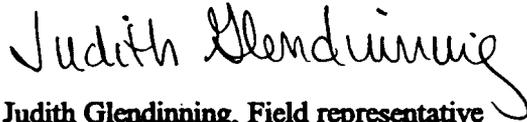
- Requirement for 1,200 square feet of indoor recreational space.
- Average sleeping room is 188 square feet. Standard requires 50 square feet per minor, and rooms could not accommodate four minors. Board staff recommend against sleeping three minors in a room.
- Day-room space of 30 square feet per minor.
- Classroom space of 580 square feet for 15 minors. If facility has only one classroom, minors would have to attend school in shifts.
- Visiting space, medical examination room, institutional storage, safety equipment and personal storage, confidential interview room, and laundry

**RECOMMENDATION**

An excessive amount of remodeling would be necessary to bring the facility into compliance with the minimum standards for juvenile camps, and would result in a camp that would be difficult to operate. If Ventura County wants to pursue operation of a secure camp, in our opinion, a new site should be selected that can provide better operational function; reduced construction/remodel costs; and offer a higher level of safety and security for minors; staff and the community.

The building drawings have been reviewed, and will be returned to you under separate cover. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to call me. As usual, it was a pleasure to work with you and your staff.

Sincerely,



Judith Glendinning, Field representative  
Corrections Standards and Services Division  
(916) 323-6152