



**Contra  
Costa  
County**

To: Board of Supervisors  
From: Esa Ehmen-Krause, County Probation Officer  
Date: November 1, 2022  
Subject: Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility

---

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

APPROVE the closure of the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, (the “Ranch”) located at 4491 Bixler Rd. in the unincorporated area of Byron, California.

DIRECT the County Probation Officer to move to close the facility in accordance with the timeline included in the Staff Report included with the Board Order.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

The operating expenses for Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility total approximately \$6,546,500 for fiscal year 2022-23. The latest estimate on deferred maintenance needs is \$5.4 million based on the facility condition assessment report completed by Gordian in 2021. Additionally, the average annual maintainance for the facility is \$595,579.

**BACKGROUND:**

The Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility (OAYRF,) is a discretionary residential commitment program for adolescent males located at 4491 Bixler Rd. in unincorporated Byron, California. This Probation Department facility operates as county juvenile ranch, as per the

☒ APPROVE

☐ OTHER

☒ RECOMMENDATION OF CNTY

☐ RECOMMENDATION OF BOARD

ADMINISTRATOR

COMMITTEE

Action of Board On: **11/01/2022** ☒ APPROVED AS RECOMMENDED ☐ OTHER

Clerks Notes:

**VOTE OF SUPERVISORS**

AYE: Candace Andersen, District II Supervisor  
Diane Burgis, District III Supervisor  
Karen Mitchoff, District IV Supervisor

NO: John Gioia, District I Supervisor  
Federal D. Glover, District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: November 1, 2022

Monica Nino, County Administrator and Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: June McHuen, Deputy

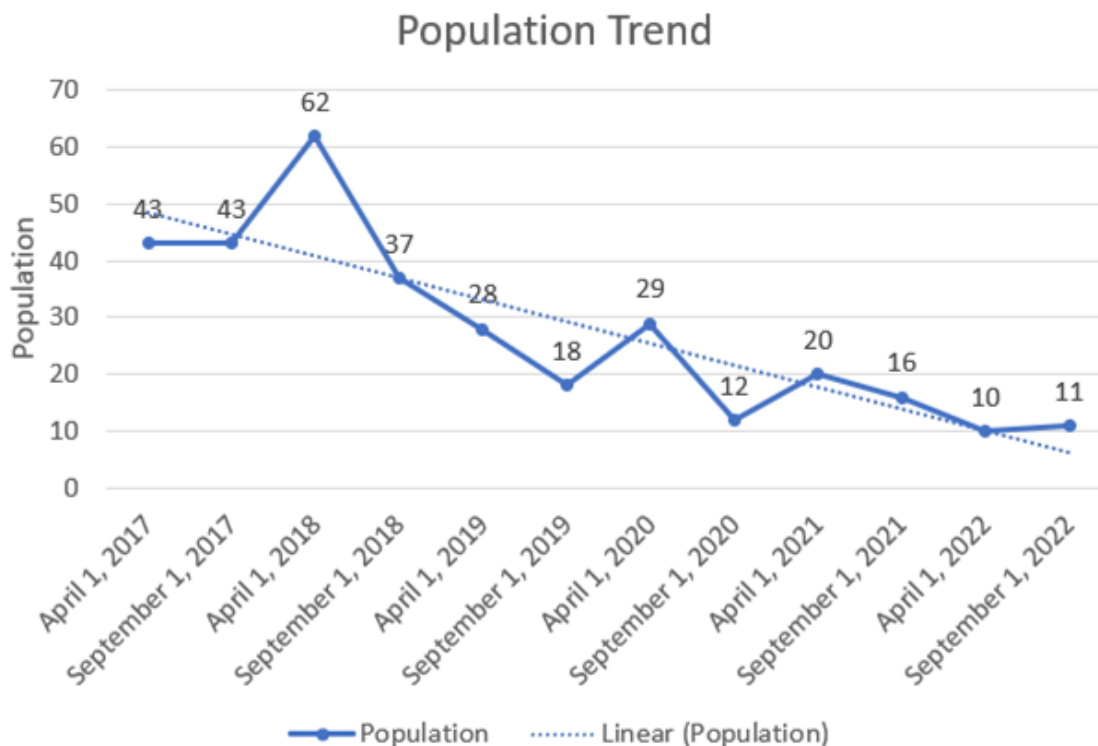
Contact: Esa Ehmen-Krause,  
925-313-4188

cc:



## BACKGROUND: (CONT'D)

Welfare and Institutions Code §881. As designed, OAYRF is considered minimum security, and is intended to serve low to moderate risk youth. This facility has a Board of State and Community Corrections rated bed capacity of 100, however emerging research related to adolescent brain develop, and increased investments in community programming and services has impacted trends in both charging and sentencing “delinquent” youth. This has resulted in a reduced reliance on juvenile incarceration and a steady decline in the population at OAYRF.



In addition to the reduction in population, deferred maintenance has resulted in the need for significant repairs, updates, and renovations, which have been estimated to be \$5.4 million based on the most recent estimates.

There are currently 36 Probation Department staff assigned to OAYRF, which could be reassigned throughout the Department. Senate Bills 823 and 92 have precipitated the mandated need for increased officers to support the programs and services for realigned youth.

The Briones Youth Academy, Community Path allows youth the opportunity to engage in the same comprehensive evidence-based programs and services that they would have received at Orin Allen, while remaining at home, in their communities. This minimizes the disruption and impact on youth and families, allowing them to focus on rehabilitative services. The Probation Department, in partnership with community based providers, would see youth seven days a week, and will transport youth to regional locations, three

nights a week for cognitive behavioral group programming, as well as provide access to the same recreational program options, such as sailing and hiking trips, on the weekends. Intensive, home-based family therapy, and the ability to serve girls, are two additional advantages of the BYA, Community Path that are unable to be replicated at the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility.

#### CONSEQUENCE OF NEGATIVE ACTION:

The Probation Department will continue to invest resources operating an underutilized facility, and will not be able to fully implement the programs required by Senate Bills 823 and 92.

#### CLERK'S ADDENDUM

**Speakers: Carlos Fernandez, Safe Return Project, Juvenile Justice Commission; Tamani Drew; Randy Joseph, RYSE; Lonnie Briscoe, Senior Tutors from Rossmoor; Francisco; No name given; Gigi Crowder, Executive Director of NAMI; Julius Vanhook, Rye Scott, Chair Juvenile Justice Commission; Veronica Martinez, Young Womens Freedom Center; Caller 6770; Addie; Rachel Rosekind; Phil Arnold; Stephanie; Dante, San Pablo; Jane; Doug Leach, Multifaith Action Coalition; Lynn Collins; Cheryl; Teresa Pasquini; Israel; Marisol, Safe Return Project; Jonathon Laba.**

Written commentary received from: Meredith Desautels, Youth Attorney; Marisol Cantu (attached).

#### ATTACHMENTS

Probation Presentation