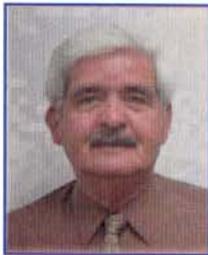


# LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE



Roxanne Orrrock, Chair



Al Alcantara



Sandra Diaz



Virginia Eriksen



Maureen Godfrey



Robert Grube



Robert Kissinger



Jack Reilly



Morris Wiley



# **LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

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## **LAW AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

The Law and Justice Committee has responsibility for functional overview of the following County departments:

Coroner/Public Administrator/Public Guardian  
District Attorney  
Probation  
Public Defender  
Sheriff

Subcommittees were established in order to perform a thorough overview of each department.

The following reports contain background, findings and recommendations that the Law and Justice Committee believes will assist these departments.

# **PROBATION DEPARTMENT**

## **JUVENILE HALL**

### **BACKGROUND**

One of the Probation Department's responsibilities is operation of the County's juvenile detention facilities. These facilities provide custody, counseling, medical care, and guidance of delinquent and custodial children through a variety of short and medium-term programs.

The Grand Jury Law and Justice Committee was given a tour of Central Juvenile Hall on Gilbert Street in San Bernardino, revealing the conditions at this facility. They were found to be unacceptable due to the overcrowded population. A tour of the West Valley Juvenile Hall was also made and found to be very secure, but housing more juveniles than it was designed to accommodate.

Transporting juveniles from the High Desert to the Juvenile Court in San Bernardino is a time-consuming and expensive problem. There is a need for juvenile holding facilities in the High Desert, including a Juvenile Court.

San Bernardino County, geographically the largest county in the contiguous United States, is poised for a significant increase in population, particularly in the western portion of the County and the High Desert. The population is projected to double over the next 20 years. The projected population growth in the Phelan/Oak Hills areas and the growth in the incorporated cities of Adelanto, Apple Valley, Hesperia and Victorville signal proportionate increases in juvenile and adult offenders, increases in custody populations, and increased use of justice services. The justice facilities in San Bernardino County have exceeded their capacity for juveniles.

### **FINDINGS**

Since 1994 the findings and recommendations of seven previous Grand Juries are the same: Central Juvenile Hall is overcrowded and juveniles are sleeping on the floor and in the halls, the plumbing is deteriorated with insufficient showers, toilets and washbasins. This is a safety and health hazard.

These conditions have been exacerbated by the increase in juvenile crime, and the problems have been magnified by the lack of adequate facilities. Population growth in the High Desert region of the County is part of the problem and is responsible for the increased number of juveniles in detention. There is an immediate need for a detention center in the High Desert.

The Central Juvenile Hall was designed to house 277; daily average population the first quarter of 2001 was 575. This represents 108% above the Board of Corrections standards.

The West Valley Juvenile Detention Center has a 22-bed lockup, which is reserved for the most volatile youth offenders. It now houses 36-37 in this very secured facility. The expansion of this facility is in progress.

The West Valley Juvenile housing facility building plans, which the County and the Board of Corrections have approved, allows for modification from 85 square feet to the 100 square feet per unit, as proposed for the High Desert.

In 1990 the Board of Supervisors initiated a facilities evaluation of the San Bernardino County justice system. A contract was awarded to Rosser International to conduct this study. The Rosser team concluded that the existing juvenile complex in the city of San Bernardino is overcrowded, has insufficient space for many functions, has many areas that are difficult to visually supervise, needs major infrastructure improvements, and does not meet all Board of Corrections (BOC) and Fire Marshal standards. In order to correct the situation, options were developed, studied and compared to renovate the existing juvenile complex and to bring facilities in compliance with existing standards. In addition, the following studies were done, with Board of Supervisors approval: Hellmuth, Abata & Kassabaum in 1996, Rosser again in 1996, and a 1996 Board of Supervisors appointed task force to focus on the Juvenile Hall issue and identify options and alternatives. After all of the above findings, a master plan has never been submitted to the Board of Supervisors.

On March 17, 2000 the Board of Corrections notified the Probation Department that the Central Juvenile Hall (CJH) facility was at risk of being unsuitable for the detention of minors. On October 20, 2000 the Board of Supervisors approved six 20-bed wood sided tents to temporarily house 120 juveniles.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- / 01-95 DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN FOR ALL JUVENILE FACILITIES.
- / 01-96 ESTABLISH A SUNSET DATE FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE TEMPORARY TENT HOUSING, AND COMPLETE THE CENTRAL JUVENILE FACILITY BY THE YEAR 2003.
- / 01-97 USE THE WEST VALLEY JUVENILE HOUSING FACILITY BUILDING PLANS, WHICH THE COUNTY AND THE BOARD OF CORRECTIONS HAVE APPROVED, TO EXPEDITE CONSTRUCTION OF THE HIGH DESERT JUVENILE FACILITY. THE PLANS ALLOW FOR THE MODIFICATION FROM 85 SQUARE FEET TO THE 100 SQUARE FEET PER UNIT.
- / 01-98 ESTABLISH A JUVENILE COURT FACILITY WITHIN THE PROPOSED HIGH DESERT JUVENILE DETENTION COMPLEX, WHICH WILL SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH TRANSPORTING JUVENILES TO AND FROM ASSIGNED COURTS.

## **CAMP HEART BAR**

### **BACKGROUND**

Camp Heart Bar is a cooperative program between the San Bernardino County Probation Department, Human Services System (HSS), County Superintendent of Schools, and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). It is located in the San Bernardino Mountains near Big Bear Lake, at an elevation of 6500 feet.

This is an intense short-term high impact 90-day work program that targets young men who would benefit from early intervention. It includes youth that are 16-17 years of age who typically have had one or two previous property offenses, or a 17-year old youth who has successfully completed a prior placement and is now reaching 18 years of age.

The USFS provides the site and facilities at no cost to the County, in exchange for labor provided by the youths in completing conservation projects that would otherwise go undone.

The annual budget, wages and benefits are about \$1.1 million. County funds would be used to pay their share of foster care if the youth were placed in a more lengthy and costly setting.

## **FINDINGS**

Camp Heart Bar, a placement program for young men who have been ordered placed by Superior Court, is run in a quasi-military fashion with ceremony, drill, discipline, and physical training to establish health, pride and improved ability to follow directions and valuable working skills.

HSS provides the funding of wages and benefits through savings realized by the shorter duration of placement. This program generates tremendous savings because the youth only need to stay away from their families for three months, not the 14 months as in State Social Services licensed facilities. Additionally, the recidivism (return to custody) rate has been found to be only 12% in Camp Heart Bar versus 85% for youth placed in State licensed facilities.

County Schools provides the educational component with the staffing of a full-time credentialed teacher and educational assistant. It draws the Average Daily Attendance (ADA) monies from Proposition 98 educational dollars identified in the State budget (approximately \$7,466 per ADA). Major focus on the completion of requirements for a high school diploma or GED with environmental education are integrated into the curriculum.

The Probation Department operates the facility, which benefits the department by helping to relieve the overcrowding at Juvenile Hall. Staffing consists of a director, three Probation Corrections Supervisors and 14 Probation Correction Officers.

The main responsibility of Forest Service at Camp Heart Bar is to host the program by providing the facilities. The Forest Service also provides a liaison position in addition to the facilities.

Camp Heart Bar provides a model program by which young adults' self-esteem is rejuvenated and gives them a new opportunity to become a credit to themselves and their community.

**RECOMMENDATION**

01-99 THE COUNTY CONTINUE AND EXPAND THE CAMP HEART BAR PROGRAM.

**COMMENDATION**

THE GRAND JURY COMMENDS THE PROBATION DEPARTMENT, COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOL, HUMAN SERVICES SYSTEM, AND THE UNITED STATES FORESTRY SERVICE FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING SUPPORT OF THE CAMP HEART BAR PROGRAM.

# **SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**

## **COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION**

### **BACKGROUND**

The primary function of the Sheriff's Communications Center is to provide communications assistance to law enforcement personnel in the performance of their duties, and to provide the general public with assistance through the emergency response 9-1-1 System. The County has two primary Communications centers and two secondary (satellite) Communications centers. This report addresses the centers in Rialto and Victorville and, in general, Communications Centers countywide.

Increasing dangers of physical terrorism, electronic radio frequency jamming and pulse weapon terrorism to Critical Infrastructure Communication Systems is a growing threat in the United States.

### **FINDINGS - RIALTO CENTER**

The Rialto Communications Center is located within a fenced compound shared with Fire Communications and the County Information Services Department.

The existing Rialto Communications compound area contains three main metal buildings, two temporary electronic systems buildings, five large shipboard storage containers, two radio towers, permanent parking for special Communications vehicles, two antenna towers, two propane gas tanks, parking for the Information Services Department and its customers and for County Fire Communications personnel and, if space is left over, for Sheriff's Communications Personnel.

The Rialto compound's east security gate is kept open during business hours to accommodate Information Services Department customers. Anyone can drive or walk into the compound, unannounced, unescorted, and without notice, thus negating any and all security to the total compound, making it an open target for terrorism.

The Rialto Sheriff's Communications Center building is not sufficient in size to accommodate future dispatch expansion. The building could be enlarged by an addition to the west, providing additional needed space. (Exhibit A)

The Rialto Sheriff's Dispatch, Sheriff's Aviation and Fire Dispatch propose to relocate to the Norton Air Base property. Implementation of the innovative relocation plan is estimated to take five years, subject to Board of Supervisors' approval, radio corridor considerations, available space, development of a suitable security building design and allocation of funds.

In the interim, the Rialto Communications Center needs to expand its dispatch center to keep pace with increasing demands placed upon it by escalated 9-1-1 activities.

Currently the Rialto Center handles over 700,000 calls annually, with a staff of 76 persons. The operators' duty stations are very limited in useable space, and the lighting is poor. Due to the location of the supervisor's station, it is very difficult to communicate with some of the operators. The operators get no scheduled breaks for meals or otherwise. Mandatory overtime is a requirement of operators and supervisors. Parking facilities are inadequate for the number of personnel and lack security.

There is a need for secure parking at the Rialto Communications Center. With the expansion of the Rialto Communications building, five or more existing parking spaces will be lost, and with the addition, more parking spaces will be required. (Exhibit A)

Public records disclose the County owns, in fee, Rialto vacant property, identified as parcels 240-261-66, 60 & 62, lying adjacent and contiguous to the west line of the existing Rialto compound area. (Exhibit B)

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 01-100 EXPAND AND RENOVATE THE EXISTING RIALTO COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY BY CONSTRUCTING AN ADDITION TO THE BUILDING TO ACCOMMODATE PRESENT AND FUTURE NEEDS FOR SHERIFF'S DISPATCH AND THE 9-1-1 CENTER.

- 01-101 UTILIZE THE COUNTY OWNED VACANT LAND LYING WESTERLY AND CONTIGUOUS TO THE RIALTO COMMUNICATIONS COMPOUND FOR AN ADDITIONAL 30 TO 50 PARKING SPACES FOR 9-1-1 PERSONNEL, FENCE THE PERIMETER FOR SECURITY REASONS, AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT NIGHT LIGHTING.
- 01-102 FOR 9-1-1 PERSONNEL, FENCE THE PERIMETER FOR SECURITY REASONS, AND PROVIDE SUFFICIENT NIGHT LIGHTING.
- 00-103 PROVIDE A SECURITY FENCE WITHIN THE RIALTO COMPOUND BETWEEN THE INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND THE 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS BUILDINGS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, REQUIRE THE EAST SECURITY GATE OF THE COMPOUND TO REMAIN CLOSED AT ALL TIMES, TO BE OPENED ONLY FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS TO KNOWN CUSTOMERS AND AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL, AND INSTALL A CALL BOX SYSTEM.

## **FINDINGS - VICTORVILLE CENTER**

The Victorville Communications Center and Sheriff's office were recently renovated, expanded and updated. It is an excellent facility, sufficiently designed to allow for limited future expansion. It lacks designated secure parking for office personnel, Sheriff's vehicles, and Search and Rescue vehicles. Communications and Sheriff personnel park their vehicles in an open parking area, wherever they can find a parking spot, in the unpaved County property (except when it is flooded with rain water), in the city's unpaved property area, and in the Victorville Court parking area.

Sheriff's Search and Rescue vehicles are parked on County and City of Victorville open vacant property, against the I-15 freeway 4-foot fence, unsecured and exposed to the general public day and night.

Public records show the County presently owns a 7.56-acre parcel of land in Victorville, identified as Parcel No. 396-181-03, upon which the Court, Sheriff's Office, Communications Center and a portion of improved parking is located. (Exhibit C)

Public records disclose that contiguous to the County-owned 7.56-acre Victorville property is a parcel of vacant land owned by the City of Victorville, being 1.98 acres and identified as Parcel 396-181-04. (Exhibit C) This city-owned land lies within the open unpaved parking area presently being used by the general public for Court parking, the Sheriff's Office and 9-1-1 personnel.

The County, through the County Administrative Office, previously attempted, without success, to trade other County-owned property with the city to acquire the 1.98-acre city-owned parcel.

In June 2000, the Board of Supervisors approved two Capital Improvement Projects for the Victorville Courthouse parking lot expansion and repair at a cost of \$320,000 and \$25,000, respectively. (Exhibit D) The completion date for the projects, identified by Architecture and Engineering as Project No. 10420 and 10430, was estimated to be June 2001. The projects stalled when the County Administrative Office was unable to provide trade property to the city.

The County Administrative Office is presently renegotiating with the City of Victorville to acquire the city's 1.98-acre property for the purpose of addition to the County holdings for the Victorville Courthouse parking.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 00-104 CREATE A SECURE PARKING AREA OF SUFFICIENT SIZE WITH FENCE, SECURITY GATES AND LIGHTING, ON EXISTING COUNTY-OWNED VICTORVILLE COURTHOUSE PROPERTY FOR THE VICTORVILLE SHERIFF'S PERSONNEL, 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL AND SHERIFF'S VEHICLES ON-SITE PARKING NEEDS.
- 00-105 TERMINATE ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING'S PROJECT NO. 10420 AND 10430 AND BEGIN WITH A NEW, JOINT PROJECT TO DEVELOP A SECURE PARKING AREA FOR THE SHERIFF'S OFFICE VEHICLES, 9-1-1 DISPATCH PERSONNEL, AND PUBLIC PARKING FOR THE VICTORVILLE COURT.
- 00-106 APPOINT A WORK GROUP OF MEMBERS FROM THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT, THE 9-1-1 COMMUNICATIONS CENTER, THE ARCHITECTURE AND ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, AND THE COURTS, TO WORK UP A SUITABLE MUTUAL BENEFIT PARKING LOT PLAN.

## **FINDINGS - COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS COUNTYWIDE**

The Grand Jury, over several years, has addressed the continuing problem of the high turnover rate of personnel in the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Dispatch and Communications Department, the disparity in pay related to other counties and cities dispatch pay scales, the shortage of

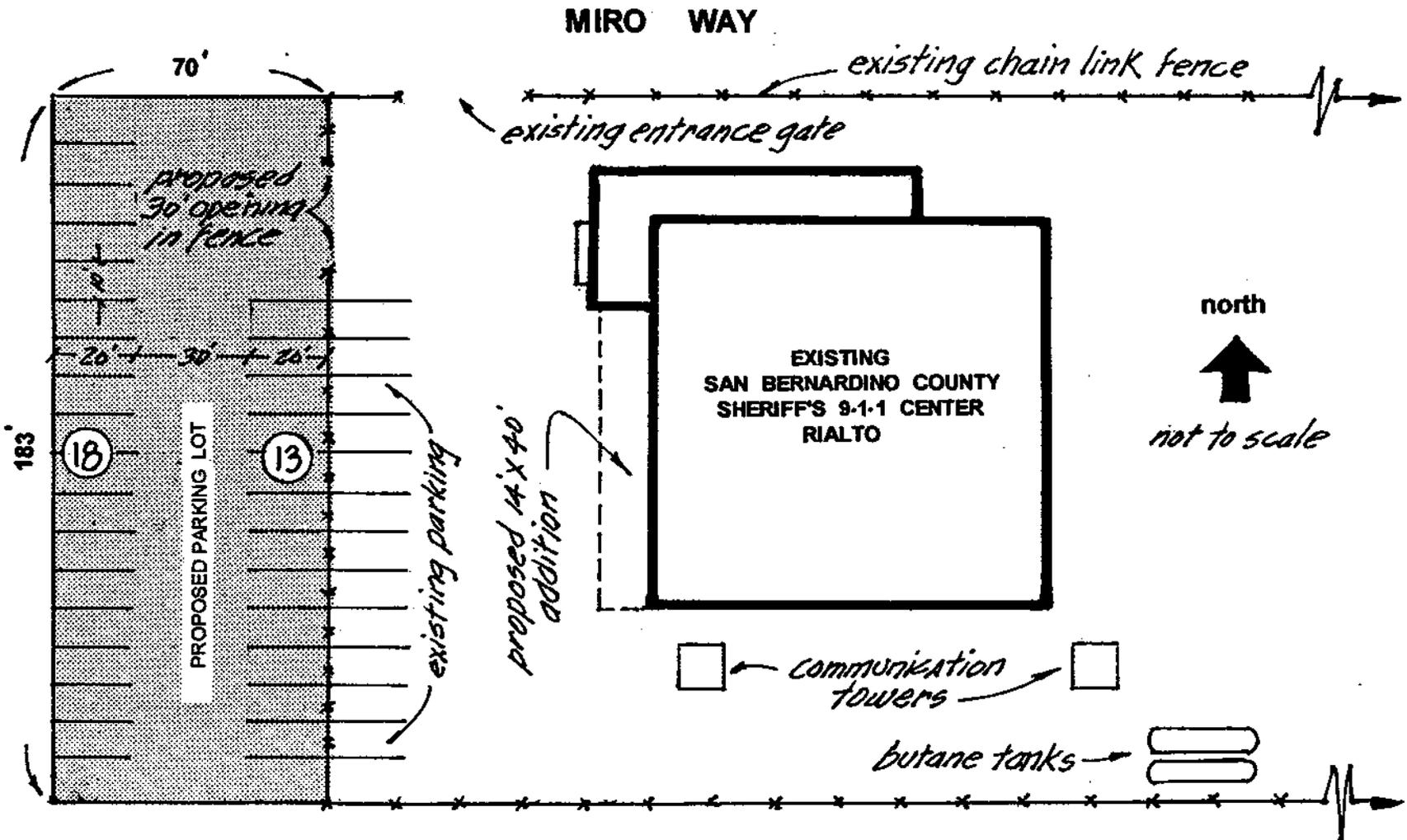
supervisory personnel, and the overtime required of present Dispatch supervisors to make up for the shortage of supervisory staff.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 00-107 APPOINT A SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SECURITY ENFORCEMENT UNIT TO ADDRESS SECURITY NEEDS FOR THE RIALTO COMMUNICATIONS CENTER AND ALL OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY.
- 00-108 THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT BE VIGILANT IN IMPLEMENTING A SECURITY PLAN FOR ALL COUNTYWIDE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES. INVESTIGATE ALL UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS FOUND UPON COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER PROPERTIES AND PURSUE INVESTIGATION OF ALL SUSPECTED RADIO FREQUENCY JAMMING.

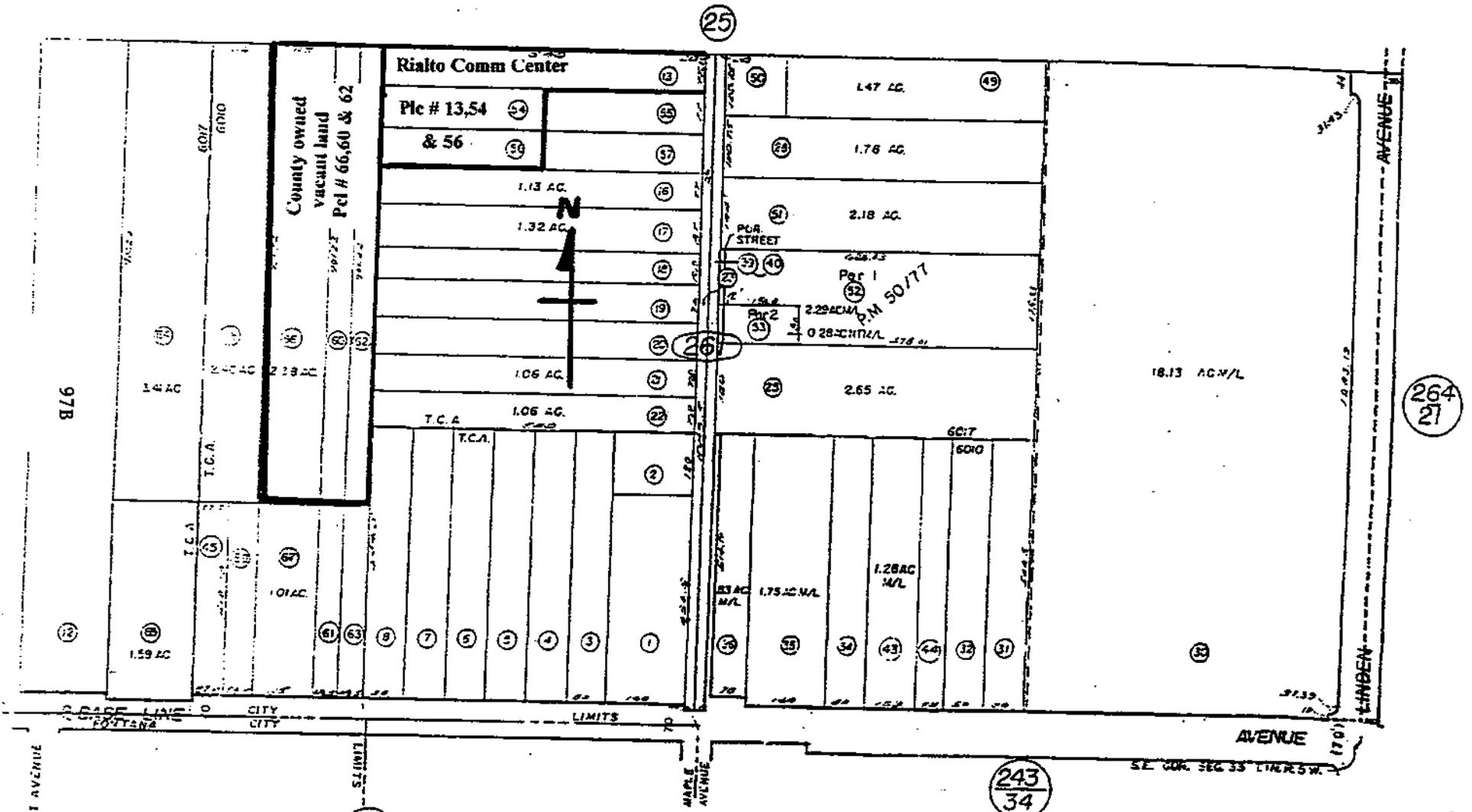
## **COMMENDATION**

THE GRAND JURY COMMENDS THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION, ITS COMMANDER, ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS, SUPERVISORS, AND DISPATCH PERSONNEL FOR THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, EXPERTISE, EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE AND DEDICATION TO THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC VIA THE EMERGENCY 9-1-1 SYSTEMS.



### PROPOSED TEMPORARY PARKING LOT

COUNTY OWNED PROPERTY - LOTS 60 AND 62



243  
24

Parcel Map 5379 P.M. 50/77

RIALTO

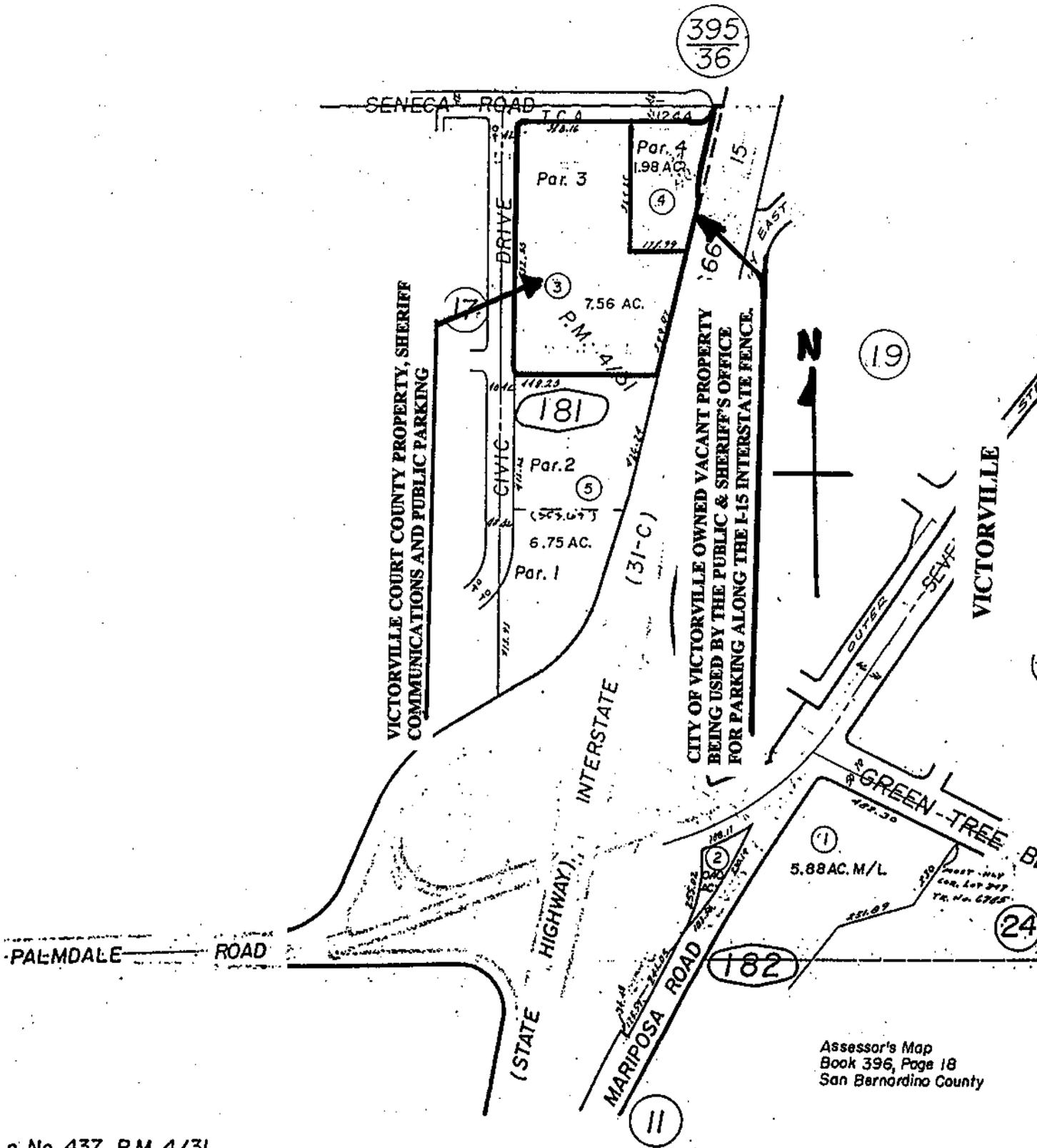
243  
34

S 1/2 S.E. 1/4 Sec.33 T.1N.R.5W. S.B.B.&M

Assessor's Map  
Book 240 Page 26  
San Bernardino County

EXHIBIT B

Port North 1/2 Sec. 20, T.5N., R.4W., S.B.B. & M.



VICTORVILLE COURT COUNTY PROPERTY, SHERIFF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC PARKING

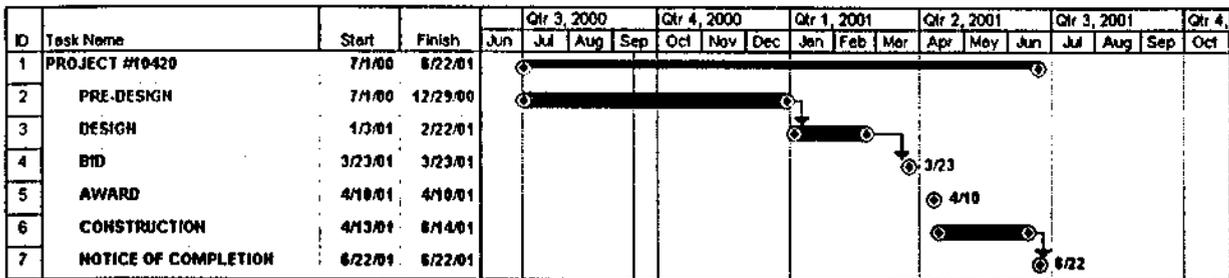
CITY OF VICTORVILLE OWNED VACANT PROPERTY BEING USED BY THE PUBLIC & SHERIFF'S OFFICE FOR PARKING ALONG THE I-15 INTERSTATE FENCE.

Assessor's Map  
Book 396, Page 18  
San Bernardino County

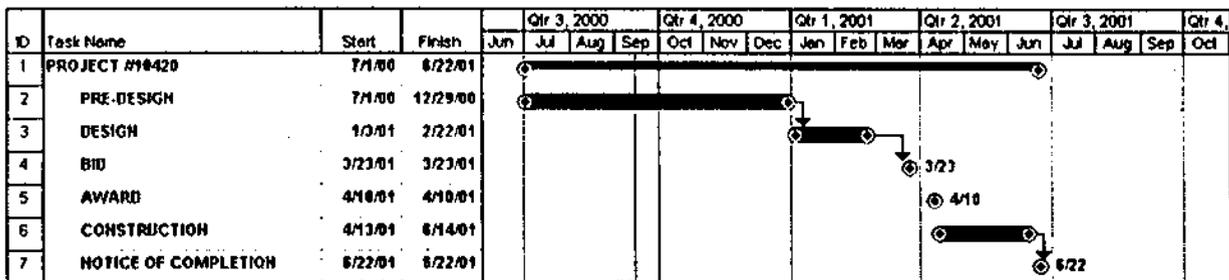
**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS  
- OCTOBER, 2000**

1ST District  
**VICTORVILLE - COURTHOUSE**  
 Project: **PARKING LOT EXPANSION**  
 Project #10420  
 Project Manager: **GUERTH**  
 Client Department: **COURTS**  
 Budget: **\$320,000**  
 Consultant:  
 Contractor:  
 Project Issues/Status: **Pre-design. To be combined with Project #10430.**

Funding Source: **GENERAL FUND**



1ST District  
**VICTORVILLE - COURTHOUSE**  
 Project: **PARKING LOT REPAIR**  
 Project #10430  
 Project Manager: **GUERTH**  
 Client Department: **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**  
 Budget: **\$25,000**  
 Funding Source: **GENERAL FUND**  
 Consultant:  
 Contractor:  
 Project Issues/Status: **Pre-design. To be combined with Project #10420.**



# **INTERIM REPORT ON THE AVIATION DIVISION**

**(Issued March 16, 2001)**

## **BACKGROUND**

Sheriff's Aviation, a division of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, provides law enforcement aircraft patrols, surveillance, airdrop fire suppression assistance, search and rescue, public safety services, and transportation.

## **FINDINGS**

The department aircraft fleet consists of 11 helicopters and two (2) fixed-wing aircraft. There are six (6) different models in the helicopter fleet, each with different capabilities. The two fixed-wing aircraft are primarily used for law enforcement transportation activities. Upon good cause and availability of aircraft, the department can provide non-law enforcement air transportation for personnel of other County departments and agencies.

Aviation's seven-man, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) licensed aircraft maintenance crew provides the repair, maintenance, modifications and FAA required 100 hour and 300 hour inspections to keep the department's aircraft fleet air worthy and mission ready.

Helicopters are complex sophisticated flying machines with many moving components and parts requiring vigilant inspections and continuous maintenance. Many helicopter parts are highly sensitive with short useable life, requiring replacement upon reaching the time limitations established by the FAA and the manufacturer.

Over the years the Sheriff's Aviation Division has been upgrading its helicopter fleet by selling off its excessive flight-used helicopters and purchasing new, modern and updated aircraft.

The Board of Supervisors recently approved the purchase of four (4) new EC-120 helicopters now in use by the department. In August 2000 the Board approved a \$610,000 maintenance allocation for the purchase of necessary parts, supplies and services for the Aviation fleet.

Throughout the years the department has purchased replacement spare parts for its aircraft maintenance inventory in order to eliminate the problem of prolonged aircraft down time while awaiting delivery of necessary parts. Over a long period of time the department has accumulated a large quantity of high cost spare parts for aircraft that it no longer has. These parts include aircraft engines, instruments, radios, electronic and avionics devices, rotor blades, and a myriad of other expensive and now non-essential parts. This inventory is stored in the main hangar and two auxiliary hangars located at the Sheriff's Aviation facilities.

Staff is trying to sort out the non-essential spare parts, but the progress is slow because of other assigned duties.

The department has no use for the surplus spare parts that are not compatible with the aircraft the department now has, or for parts that are of a vintage 20+ years old.

Aircraft parts must meet specific aircraft quality standards, and are expensive items to purchase.

The department's existing computer tracking system for parts inventory control is old technology, cumbersome to use, inadequate and is not being used.

No inventory of aircraft spare parts has been taken for seven or eight years.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 01-109 ASSIGN ONE PERSON TO SERVE SOLELY AS A PARTS DEPARTMENT PERSON TO MAINTAIN CONTROL AND INVENTORY OF ALL SPARE AIRCRAFT PARTS.
- 01-110 PURCHASE A NEW COMPUTER PARTS INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM THAT IS EFFECTIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT.
- 01-111 ESTABLISH A BAR-CODE INVENTORY CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ALL AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS.
- 01-112 INVENTORY ALL SPARE PARTS AND IDENTIFY THOSE PARTS THAT ARE NOT ESSENTIAL AND HAVE NO FURTHER USE TO THE DEPARTMENT AND ANNUALLY DISPOSE OF NON-ESSENTIAL AND OUTDATED SPARE PARTS THROUGH SALE AND/OR AUCTION.

01-113

SHERIFF'S AVIATION DEPARTMENT SELL OR AUCTION ALL NON-ESSENTIAL AIRCRAFT SPARE PARTS, THE PROCEEDS THEREFROM TO BE RECAPTURED BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT AND PLACED IN THE SHERIFF'S AIRCRAFT REPLACEMENT FUND.