

PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Correspondence Received

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
51-A.		Favor		Attached letter of support to oppose the proposed change to the Intake Policy at the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp.
		Item Total	1	
Grand Total			1	

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS HOLLY J. MITCHELL LINDSEY P. HORVATH JANICE HAHN KATHRYN BARGER

As of: 6/16/2025 9:00:13 PM



June 16, 2025

Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors: Supervisor Mitchell Supervisor Solis Supervisor Horvath Supervisor Hahn Supervisor Barger

Via email: executiveoffice@bos.lacounty.gov

Re: In Support of Board Supplemental Agenda Item 51-A - Send a Five-Signature Letter to Oppose the Proposed Change to the Intake Policy at the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Andony Corleto. I am a program associate with Vera California, a local initiative of the Vera Institute of Justice, a national organization working to end mass incarceration, ensure dignity for people behind bars, and build safe, thriving communities. I am also a resident of District 2. I am writing in strong support of the Board's motion to oppose the proposed changes to the intake policy at Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp.

Personally, having served two seasons as an incarcerated firefighter, I can attest to the life changing and rehabilitative powers of the California Conservation Fire Camp program. Their training, studies, and requirements demanded a commitment from me that transformed my approach to many levels of my life. It gave me skills and helped build traits within me that no other rehabilitation program in CDCR ever amounted to.

As a wildland firefighter, I gained the skills and confidence to pursue a successful career and rebuild a stable life following incarceration. In fact, former fire camp participants have lower recidivism rates than people charged with the same types of offenses who don't participate in the program. And due to California's record-high costs of incarceration, policies that reduce recidivism make fiscal sense.

Youth involved in the justice system have suffered from trauma and behavioral issues that <u>prison</u> itself <u>cannot properly help heal</u>. The <u>structure</u>, teachings, connections, <u>positive attention</u>, and <u>environment</u> of fire camp can be conducive to the <u>growth and development</u> that the youth need to avoid reoffending. We should not unnecessarily restrict youth from participating in such meaningful programming.



Investing in the future and success of incarcerated youth hoping to be firefighters is not only a matter of fairness—it is also an investment in the health, safety, and stability of Los Angeles and our communities.

We thank you for your attention to this motion and we urge your "Aye" vote opposing the intake policy change.

Respectfully,

Andony Corleto

Program Associate, Vera California

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