



Board of Supervisors Public Safety Cluster Agenda Review Meeting

DATE: November 26, 2025

TIME: 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

MEETING CHAIR: Sandra Croxton, 5th Supervisorial District

CEO MEETING FACILITATOR: Dardy Chen

THIS MEETING IS HELD UNDER THE GUIDELINES OF BOARD POLICY 3.055.

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS MEETING WILL BE HELD VIRTUALLY ONLY ON NOVEMBER 26, 2025, BEGINNING AT 9:30 A.M. VIRTUAL CALL-IN INFORMATION BELOW.

To participate in the meeting virtually, please call teleconference number

1 (323) 776-6996 and enter the following 169948309# or [Click here to join the meeting](#)

For Spanish Interpretation, the Public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to: ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov

Members of the Public may address the Public Safety Cluster on any agenda item during General Public Comment. The meeting chair will determine the amount of time allowed for each item.

THIS TELECONFERENCE WILL BE MUTED FOR ALL CALLERS. PLEASE DIAL *6 TO UNMUTE YOUR PHONE WHEN IT IS YOUR TIME TO SPEAK.

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. INFORMATIONAL ITEM(S): [Any Informational Item is subject to discussion and/or presentation at the request of two or more Board offices with advance notification]:

A. NONE

3. BOARD MOTION ITEM(S):

- SD-4**
- Ensuring All Eligible Youth are Screened for the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp When Requested
 - Ensuring Youth at Los Padrinos Have Equal Access to the Facility Amenities and Programs

4. PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION ITEM(S):

A. NONE

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS

6. ADJOURNMENT

7. UPCOMING ITEM(S) FOR DECEMBER 3, 2025:

A. BOARD LETTER:

Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for Participation in the Los Angeles County-North County Safe Streets Task Force
Speaker(s): Erick Martinez and Ericka Gooseberry (SHERIFF'S)

B. BOARD BRIEFING:

Probation Oversight Commission (POC) and Office of Inspector General (OIG) Probation Monthly Briefing
Speaker(s): Wendelyn Julien (POC) and Eric Bates (OIG)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO EMAIL A COMMENT ON AN ITEM ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CLUSTER AGENDA, PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING EMAIL AND INCLUDE THE AGENDA NUMBER YOU ARE COMMENTING ON:

PUBLIC_SAFETY_COMMENTS@CEO.LACOUNTY.GOV

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
December 9, 2025

Ensuring All Eligible Youth are Screened for the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp When Requested

As Los Angeles County (County) approaches the one-year anniversary of the most devastating wildfires in recent history, it is important to honor the first responders who risked their lives to protect County residents. Among them were incarcerated firefighters, including youth from the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Pine Grove) in Pine Grove, California, who helped combat the fires that ravaged Altadena and the Pacific Palisades. Across the country, a spotlight has been placed on the value and importance of incarcerated firefighters now more than ever before. In fact, on October 13, 2025, Governor Newsom signed Assembly Bill 247 (Bryan)¹ into law, which requires that incarcerated hand crew members, including youth at Pine Grove, would be paid an hourly wage while assigned to an active fire incident. This demonstrates the growing recognition across the State that incarcerated firefighters deserve to be compensated for their labor, and it highlights the benefits of participating in programs like Pine Grove for system-involved youth.

Today, Los Angeles County faces a crisis: both Los Padrinos and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls have been declared unsuitable by the Board of State and Community

¹ https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202520260AB247

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Corrections (BSCC). The Los Angeles County Probation Department (Probation) has the option to use Pine Grove as an alternative placement for some eligible youth to complete their sentences. Pine Grove, which is run by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), is considered a step-down placement, meaning youth who are dispositioned as Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) track can “step down” and complete their sentence at Pine Grove’s campus in northern California. To qualify for placement at Pine Grove without completing SYTF, youth at Probation’s facilities are required to have been in custody for 12 consecutive months, have documentation of positive programming while in custody during those 12 consecutive months (ex: education, self-help groups, following an individual rehabilitation plan, etc.), been serious discipline-free for 180 days, been dispositioned, passed a medical screening, and be between 18 and 25 years old. Once these criteria are met, the youth’s attorneys could request that the judge order the youth be officially screened for participation in Pine Grove via a minute order, and Probation would submit a package to Pine Grove asking for the official screening to take place. Over the past six months, no youth have been successfully referred to and placed at Pine Grove as a step-down program.

Under Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) 875(a)(3), Probation has an obligation to recommend the least restrictive placement that meets a youth’s rehabilitative needs and ensures community safety. While a judge makes the ultimate decision regarding a youth’s disposition and placement, Probation submits pre-plea reports recommending suitable outcomes if a youth’s charges are sustained. For many youth, Pine Grove may be a more suitable, less restrictive placement, than incarceration at one of the County’s post-disposition facilities, and Probation should put every effort into ensuring as many youth who qualify and are interested have the opportunity to be screened and placed

there.

In addition to Probation's duty to recommend the least restrictive placement, the department has also been ordered by the Los Angeles County Superior Court to pre-screen pre-disposition youth to determine their preliminary qualification for Pine Grove. On December 13, 2024, Judge Miguel Espinoza issued an Order to Show Cause as to why youth detained at Los Padrinos should not be released following the BSCC's finding of unsuitability. On May 16, 2025, as a part of his order to depopulate Los Padrinos, Judge Espinoza ordered Probation to identify all pre-disposition youth who appear to be suitable for placement at Pine Grove, youth who could qualify to be screened by CDCR for participation in Pine Grove, and to provide information to the Court with identified youth who Probation would recommend a commitment at Pine Grove. On July 3, 2025, Probation responded, asserting that CDCR can screen youth for Pine Grove only after a judge orders an SYTF commitment. Chief Probation Officer Guillermo Viera Rosa repeated this claim before the Board of Supervisors on September 16, 2025.

However, this interpretation misapplies the law, as both pre- and post-disposition youth can lawfully be screened. Pine Grove has a policy and procedure in place for pre-disposition youth to be preliminarily screened for Pine Grove – known as “pre-screening.” A judge can request that a youth be pre-screened for Pine Grove during the disposition process or during a transfer hearing, where a judge determines whether a youth stays in juvenile jurisdiction or is transferred to adult court. This pre-screening process entails Probation completing a one-page pre-screening request form and submitting it to the judge, who would then email it to CDCR's Pine Grove screening division. Pine Grove's screening division would then review the completed request form and provide a preliminary determination of the youth's suitability for Pine Grove, which is based primarily

on the youth's charge. This first level of screening does not require that a youth be dispositioned to SYTF or any other placement. Instead, it allows the youth's judge to see that if they were to be dispositioned to a County juvenile detention facility, they would or would not qualify for an eventual placement at Pine Grove. This can be beneficial, especially during transfer hearings, so that the judge knows that Pine Grove is an option for youth who may be better suited for that program than the traditional SYTF program in Probation's detention facilities.

While pre-screenings are helpful for a youth's case, completing the full screening quickly and efficiently is essential to ensuring more youth are successfully transferred to Pine Grove. Once a youth has been dispositioned to SYTF or has completed their transfer hearing and is in the process of being dispositioned to SYTF, the process for the full Pine Grove screening can begin. According to WIC 730 (D), youth can be placed directly at Pine Grove without the need to complete the SYTF program or a step-down program, as long as the youth meet the screening criteria of 12 consecutive months in custody, serious disciplinary free for 180 days, and documented positive programming during those twelve months. This means that youth do not need to move to the Barry J. Nidorf Secure Youth Treatment Facility campus from their pre-disposition location in order to be placed at Pine Grove. Instead, once a youth has been dispositioned to SYTF, the Pine Grove screening can commence, and once the screening is complete, the youth can be placed directly at Pine Grove rather than needing to be moved to the SYTF facility first.

While Probation has always had a duty to ensure eligible youth can step down to less restrictive placements like Pine Grove, that mandate is even more salient and urgent considering the lack of suitability of Los Padrineros and Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Halls and Judge Espinoza's depopulation order. However, it is important to acknowledge that Pine

Grove is not a mandated program and youth have to opt into. Because of this, referrals to Pine Grove also hinge on the Department's ability to effectively communicate to youth so they know Pine Grove is a potential option. The Probation Department, and youth's attorneys, should ensure all youth are aware of Pine Grove, and know how they can qualify. Instead of discouraging participation in Pine Grove, Probation employees should ensure youth receive an unbiased and accurate presentation of what it would take to attend Pine Grove, including qualifications, pros, cons, and the process needed to be screened and admitted.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Probation Department to do the following:

1. When a judge requests that a youth be "pre-screened" during the pre-disposition process for eligibility to participate in the Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp (Pine Grove), complete the pre-screening form as laid out in the Pine Grove policies and procedures and submit it to the judge within 14 days of receiving the request;
2. After a youth's transfer hearing that results in the judge determining that the youth will stay in juvenile jurisdiction, initiate the full screening process for Pine Grove as soon as requested by a judge and before the youth's sentencing hearing while they are still in the pre-disposition facility/unit. This screening process should include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Ensuring any medical documentation of psychiatric medications and asthma is accurate and up-to-date;
 - b. Submitting required documentation to Pine Grove in a timely manner (including the completed Pine Grove screening forms and the minute order from the judge); and

- c. Ensuring the Pine Grove interview is conducted in a timely manner;
3. Identify a point person at the Barry J. Nidorf Pre-Disposition Secure Youth Treatment Facility and a point person at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall to communicate with Pine Grove regarding all pre-screening and screening of youth in their respective facilities. These individuals shall, at a minimum, be responsible for ensuring that pre-screening and screening requests get completed and submitted on time;
4. Collaborate with Pine Grove to conduct quarterly presentations at both Barry J. Nidorf and Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall about the Pine Grove program and its eligibility requirements to both incarcerated youth and Probation employees; and
5. Report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing in 30 and 90 days on the above.

I, FURTHER, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Office of the Public Defender and Alternate Public Defender to do the following:

1. Conduct an internal education campaign for juvenile defense lawyers on the eligibility criteria for Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, the pre-screening process for pre-disposition youth, and the full screening process for post-disposition youth or youth who have completed their transfer hearing but are pre-disposition and awaiting their official juvenile sentencing hearing;
2. Encourage juvenile attorneys to request that the court order a full Pine Grove screening at the conclusion of a youth's transfer hearing if the youth is remaining in juvenile jurisdiction; and
3. Report back to the Board of Supervisors in writing in 60 days on the above.

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MOTION BY SUPERVISOR JANICE HAHN

AGN. NO.
December 9, 2025

Ensuring Youth at Los Padrinos Have Equal Access to the Facility Amenities and Programs

Since the re-opening of Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall (Los Padrinos) in 2023, there have been several efforts by the Probation Department and the Department of Youth Development to implement and expand programming for all youth at the facility. Los Padrinos is equipped with several amenities that support programming, like two indoor gyms, a pool, a chapel, and a library that is specifically curated in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Library. While Probation has faced consistent challenges with implementing comprehensive programming across the facility for all youth, some incarcerated young people have even less access to amenities at Los Padrinos than others.

Most youth who are on track to be dispositioned to the Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF) are housed in units R/S in the most restrictive area of Los Padrinos – a “compound” that is fenced off and separated from the rest of the campus that surrounds it. These youth are rarely allowed to exit the compound, except to attend court hearings, participate in baby bonding and visitation, or to access certain Behavioral Management Program benefits. This is largely due to staffing limitations, since youth are required to be escorted by Probation staff from one secure area of the facility to another. Persistent

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staffing shortages have made this challenging, so youth are only escorted out of the “compound” when deemed absolutely necessary. Because of this, there have been minimal to no opportunities for SYTF-track youth to access amenities like the curated library, the gym, the chapel, and the pool. Additionally, the Probation Department has had challenges this past year with providing lifeguard supervision at their pools, limiting access to the pools for all youth at Los Padrinos. Historically, Probation has relied on Probation officers who are trained as lifeguards to provide supervision, but given the ongoing staffing shortages, this is also becoming a problem.

It is critical that all youth have equal access to the resources and amenities available at the facility. Even though the Probation Department is still facing a staffing crisis, the mandate to depopulate Los Padrinos has led to a decreased population that should become more manageable as youth continue to move to other facilities and to community-based placements. However, while staffing continues to be limited at Los Padrinos, Probation must collaborate with County partners, such as the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Los Angeles County Library, to leverage all available resources that might allow more youth, including SYTF-track youth, to access all Los Padrinos amenities, such as the pool and the library.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Chief Probation Officer, in collaboration with the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Director of Los Angeles County Library, to report back to the Board, in writing, in 60 days with an analysis on how to ensure that all youth at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall can access the resources and amenities on the facilities, with a specific focus on access to the pool and the library. The analysis should include, but not be limited to:

1. A feasibility analysis and operational plan for allowing youth in units R/S to be

transported to the Los Padrinios Library if they are interested, including staffing needs (both Probation and Library staff), the cadence with which youth would be allowed to visit the library, and whether the library hours should be extended in order to allow youth to visit it regularly; and

2. A feasibility analysis and operational plan for allowing all youth, including youth in units R/S, to be able to use the pool regularly during the warmer months, including staffing needs – both Probation officers who would transport youth, and Department of Parks and Recreation lifeguards who would guard the pool – as well as infrastructure needs, such as ensuring the pool is warm enough and safe to use.

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