Shawn Nelson, Vice Chairman



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ORANGE COUNTY

AUDIT HIGHLIGHT

MARCH 7, 2012

INTERNAL CONTROL AUDIT:

PROBATION DEPARTMENT **GPS ELECTRONIC MONITORING PROGRAMS Audit No. 1127**

WHY IS THIS AUDIT IMPORTANT?

The Probation Department uses Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) electronic monitoring of juvenile and adult offenders as an enhanced supervision tool and an alternative to incarceration. GPS is a worldwide navigation system of satellites positioned to receive signals from earth and capable of providing information relative to latitude, longitude, and time of the collected coordinates. Probation has two GPS Electronic Monitoring Programs: the Supervised Electronic Confinement (SEC)/Home Detention Program and the Continuous Electronic Monitoring (CEM) Program.

For the SEC/Home Detention Program, Probation uses a contractor, Sentinel Offender Services, LLC to provide GPS equipment and monitoring services. The contractor charges the clients and pays Probation a non-refundable monthly fee to cover Probation's program administration and staffing costs. For FY 10-11, Sentinel paid Probation \$690,372 for about 283 to 321 daily program participants. For the CEM Program, Probation staff performs the enrollment, orientation and twenty-four hours, seven days a week GPS monitoring services at a monitoring center in the Manchester Office Building. A contractor, Satellite Tracking of People, LLC provides up to 300 GPS tracking devices and monitoring software to Probation at a daily rate of \$4.25. For FY 10-11, the contractor was paid \$361,613 for GPS devices and software provided to Probation.

WHAT THE AUDITORS FOUND?

Successes

Our audit found internal controls and processes are adequate and effective over the CEM Program; however, controls and processes for the contracted SEC/Home Detention Program need improvement, specifically in the areas of billing and contract administration. We found no backlogs, duplication of work, or manual processes that could benefit from automation in the administration of GPS Electronic Monitoring Programs. Probation is exploring alternatives for administering the SEC/Home Detention Program, such as performing the services internally or by further evaluating program staffing costs.

Audit Findings and Control Recommendations

We identified six (6) Significant Control Weaknesses and two (2) Control Findings to improve administration of the SEC/Home Detention Program, specifically with billings of program fees; determination of program costs; untimely contractor payments; monitoring contractor compliance; verification of program participants, and supervisory reviews of annual reconciliations of Probation's SEC/Home Detention Program staffing costs.