

County Notice of Proposed Operation and Description of Secure Youth Treatment Facility

Submit this form to your assigned BSCC Field Representative

Welfare and Institutions Code (WIC) section 875, subdivision (g)(4) provides:

A county proposing to establish a secure youth treatment facility for wards described in subdivision (a)¹ shall notify the Board of State and Community Corrections of the operation of the facility and shall submit a description of the facility to the board in a format designated by the board.

Submission of this form serves as notice to the BSCC of the proposed operation and description of a Secure Youth Treatment Facility (SYTF).

Date:	July 9, 2021
County:	Imperial
Facility Name:	Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track
Facility Address:	324 Applestill Rd., El Centro, CA 92243
Intended Date of Operation:	January 1, 2022
Contact Person:	Jennifer Gomez
Contact Person E-Mail:	jennifergomez@co.imperial.ca.us

REQUIRED INFORMATION:

Fill in information on form or attach a separate document. If an operational program statement or other document addresses the required information, that document may be submitted as notice of proposed operation.

Identify each facility that will operate as a SYTF.

Operating Agency (e.g., Probation Dept.)	Facility Name & Address	Facility Type (Juvenile Hall/Camp)	# of SYTF Beds
Imperial County Probation Department	Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track 324 Applestill Rd. El Centro, CA 92243	Juvenile Hall	20

If existing beds will be converted to SYTF beds, please indicate by checking the box:

<p>Describe the juvenile population to be served by each SYTF facility in the county by factors including offense, age, gender and any special programming, such as sex offender or mental health treatment to which the facility may be dedicated.</p>	<p>Imperial County will target male and female youth, ages 14 up to 25, who have been adjudged a ward of the court; their adjudication offense is described in section 707(b) of the Welfare and Institutions Code, where the Court has made a finding that less restrictive alternative dispositions are unsuitable.</p> <p>Although the Imperial County Juvenile Hall Secure Track (ICJHST) facility will not be specifically dedicated to special programming, the ICJHST will offer the below mentioned services.</p> <p>Imperial County plans to secure counseling and other related sex-offender services through a private provider. These services will be in accordance with regulations and expectations of The California Sex Offender</p>
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Management Board (CASOMB) and the State Authorized Risk Assessment Tool for Sex Offenders (SARATSO).
 Imperial County Behavioral Health will be the primary provider for mental health services for all secure track youth. Specialty mental health services will be made available to all secure track youth who meet medical necessity criteria.
 Should additional special programming be required, Imperial County Probation will pursue the necessary services.

TO THE EXTENT KNOWN, PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

<p>Describe the proposed or actual population capacity of the SYTF (ADP and maximum as applicable).</p>	<p>Dormitory 5 of Imperial County Juvenile Hall will serve as the housing unit for the SYTF. The SYTF has a capacity to house up to 20 youth as it has 10 double-occupancy rooms.</p>
<p>If the county proposes or plans to accept commitments of SYTF youth from another county or counties, describe the capacity of the SYTF that will be dedicated or available to out-of-county commitments.</p>	<p>Imperial County Probation plans to consider youth from other counties on a case by case basis.</p>
<p>If the SYTF is a unit of a facility that also houses detained or committed youth other than Section 875 committed wards, indicate which unit or part of the facility will be utilized as a SYTF and describe how youth committed to the SYTF will be separated from non-SYTF youth in the facility.</p>	<p>The Imperial County Juvenile Hall is divided into five dormitories, with capacity for up to 20 youth each. The facility has three dormitories currently utilized for the general population and for quarantine purposes as a response to COVID-19. Dormitory 5 of Imperial County Juvenile Hall is separated from all other dormitories and will be the designated housing unit for secure track youth only.</p>
<p>Describe how the SYTF will be secure as required by WIC § 875 including any proposed modifications to achieve security.</p>	<p>Imperial County Juvenile Hall, including Dormitory 5, are currently in compliance with all Title 15 security standards. However, Imperial County Probation is proposing additional modifications to enhance security within the SYTF. A new camera system is being considered to upgrade the current system to ensure all areas of the facility are covered to protect youth and aid in investigating incidents when necessary. In addition, upgrading the perimeter fencing will ensure safety and privacy of all youth in the facility. As an added security measure, consideration will be given to procuring a walk-through metal detector for those entering the facility and engaging with the youth. These proposed modifications will aid in enhancing the current security measures.</p>
<p>Describe how the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the youth serving baseline and modified baseline terms under WIC § 875.</p>	<p>Imperial County Probation intends to utilize a multi-disciplinary and evidence based approach to ensure the decision-making and services rendered to these youth are proactive and aligned with their individual needs. Further, Imperial County Probation utilizes a validated risk assessment tool, conducts targeted case plans, collaborates with community-based organizations and applies evidence-based practices to ensure appropriate delivery of services in accordance with the youth's needs. Imperial County Probation will emphasize these capabilities to prepare secure track youth with regard to their education, vocational and independent living skills,</p>

	<p>as well as treatment delivery, leading to a safe transition into adulthood and return to their community.</p>
<p>Describe the staffing proposed for the SYTF, including staffing ratios.</p>	<p>To provide rehabilitative services to this realigned population, safety and security is a core tenant. Youth will be better able to thrive if they feel safe and secure. The current staff to youth ratio is 10:1; however, as a probation practice, additional Juvenile Detention Officers (JDO) are added to every shift for additional support and to ensure the overall facility operations and delivery of services. Imperial County Juvenile Hall strives to meet and exceed the minimum standards of Title 15 of having an adequate number of personnel for the efficient management of the facility, and to ensure that staff shall not be diverted from supervising youth.</p> <p>Based on the average number of juveniles committed by the Imperial County Juvenile Court to a Secure Track under SB 823 provisions, the Department may seek to utilize grant funds to add additional positions to create a Secure Track Administrative Team (STAT). The STAT will have primary responsibility for establishing standards and practices brought forth by SB 823.</p>
<p>If the county will use or proposes to establish or utilize a less restrictive program to which SYTF-committed youth may be transferred by the juvenile court, describe the less restrictive program including whether it is operated by a community service provider.</p>	<p>Should Imperial County Probation determine a less restrictive program is in the secure track youth's best interest, a Short-Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP), or, residential vocational program will be considered. At the current time, in-county services for the abovementioned options are limited. Therefore, Imperial County Probation is seeking to establish an in-county residential vocational program that may be utilized for future secure track youth commitments. In the meantime, if the need arises for a less restrictive program, Imperial County Probation will seek to collaborate with service providers outside of the community.</p>

¹ Welfare and Institutions Code section 875, subdivision (a), provides:

- (a) In addition to the types of treatment specified in Sections 727 and 730, commencing July 1, 2021, the court may order that a ward who is 14 years of age or older, be committed to a secure youth treatment facility for a period of confinement described in subdivision (b) if the ward meets the following criteria:
 - (1) The juvenile is adjudicated and found to be a ward of the court based on an offense listed in subdivision (b) of Section 707.
 - (2) The adjudication described in paragraph (1) is the most recent offense for which the juvenile has been adjudicated.
 - (3) The court has made a finding on the record that a less restrictive, alternative disposition for the ward is unsuitable. In determining this, the court shall consider all relevant and material evidence, including the recommendations of counsel, the probation department, and any other agency or individual designated by the court to advise on the appropriate disposition of the case. The court shall additionally make its determination based on all of the following criteria:

- (A) The severity of the offense or offenses for which the ward has been most recently adjudicated, including the ward's role in the offense, the ward's behavior, and harm done to victims.
- (B) The ward's previous delinquent history, including the adequacy and success of previous attempts by the juvenile court to rehabilitate the ward.
- (C) Whether the programming, treatment, and education offered and provided in a secure youth treatment facility is appropriate to meet the treatment and security needs of the ward.
- (D) Whether the goals of rehabilitation and community safety can be met by assigning the ward to an alternative, less restrictive disposition that is available to the court.
- (E) The ward's age, developmental maturity, mental and emotional health, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and any disabilities or special needs affecting the safety or suitability of committing the ward to a term of confinement in a secure youth treatment facility.