



**CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF
COUNTIES**



**CALIFORNIA STATE SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**



**CHIEF PROBATION OFFICERS OF
CALIFORNIA**

March 22, 2012

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Budget Item 5227 – Board of State and Community Corrections
CCP Planning Grants and Statewide Realignment Training Funds – SUPPORT**

Dear Governor Brown:

On behalf of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), the California State Sheriffs' Association (CSSA), and the Chief Probation Officers of California (CPOC), we write in strong support of your budget proposal to invest in a second year of Community Correction Partnership (CCP) planning grants and statewide realignment training funds. These resources are critical to counties' successful implementation of public safety realignment, and we greatly appreciate your ongoing commitment to and investment in local efforts to manage newly realigned offender populations.

As you recall, the CCP planning grants of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 were awarded based on county population. The grants recognized the need for the multi-agency CCPs to organize and plan for the management and treatment of new offender populations. Counties' use of the planning grants has been varied. These funds have supported sending county teams to trainings and site visits to examine other jurisdictions' promising programs and best practices; they have funded gap analyses and assessments of data collection efforts; and they have provided needed resources to facilitate cross-jurisdictional discussions that have produced a variety of strategies and services to improve offender outcomes. We view the CCP planning grants as an important element in supporting counties through this transition and to best assure positive results in our communities. We think a second year of investment in planning grants is wise.

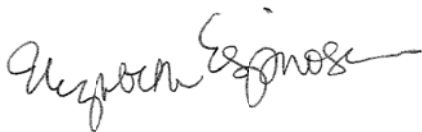
Our associations also are grateful for statewide training support for public safety realignment. Your 2012-13 budget proposes a second investment of \$1 million to fund statewide training related to, among other topics, the technical aspects of implementing realignment of public safety programs, best practices, and evidence-based community corrections strategies. The focus of many training sessions in these early months of implementation has been on the nuts and bolts – the substance and spirit of AB 109 as well as the operational and process changes necessitated by population shifts and jurisdictional changes. Over the longer term, our associations – which are working collaboratively to support membership-specific as well as more broad-based training efforts – envision more emphasis on

best practices, system change, and other topics that can support optimizing correctional practices at the local level. The policy changes encompassed in public safety realignment are vast and represent a seismic shift in correctional policy. It is important that we collectively recognize the significant benefit — if not imperative — to support this transition through sustained training and education across the state. A second year of training funding will help achieve our shared goals.

Finally, CSAC, CSSA, and CPOC support the vision articulated in SB 92 (Chapter 36, Statutes of 2011) that reformulates the state/local body that is intended to serve as a leader in supporting successful implementation of 2011 public safety realignment. Our associations are eager to participate in ongoing discussions as the mission and vision of the Board of State and Community Corrections evolve. Collectively, we have strong relationships and a solid foundation with the Board's predecessor agencies. We believe this body can fulfill an important role by providing a responsive and informed forum for critical correctional policy discussions and development.

Again, we thank you for your continued support and demonstrated commitment to ensuring counties are best positioned to achieve the objectives of 2011 public safety realignment. We will be advocating for the inclusion of CCP planning grants and training resources in the 2012-13 budget.

Respectfully,



Elizabeth Howard Espinosa
Senior Legislative Representative
CSAC



Nick Warner
Legislative Director
CSSA



Karen Pank
Executive Director
CPOC

cc: The Honorable Mark Leno, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Bill Emmerson, Vice-Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
The Honorable Loni Hancock, Chair, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Subcommittee No. 5
The Honorable Bob Blumenfield, Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Jim Nielsen, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Committee
The Honorable Gil Cedillo, Vice-Chair, Assembly Budget Subcommittee No. 5
Joe Stephenshaw, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Committee
Matt Osterli, Senate Republican Fiscal Office
Marvin Deon II, Assembly Budget Committee
Allan Cooper, Assembly Republican Fiscal Office