



June 27, 2019

Press Release

Subject: 2019 Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury

The Santa Cruz County Probation Officers Association would like to acknowledge the Santa Cruz County Grand Jury who authored the report entitled "*Santa Cruz County Probation: Officers Inadequately Equipped and At Risk*". This report found that Santa Cruz County Probation officers are lacking in the tools and training to be safe in the field and properly supervise high-risk probationers. This is a personal safety issue for all Santa Cruz Probation officers, as well as the community of Santa Cruz County. This report echoes and validates concerns that the Santa Cruz County Probation Officers Association (SCCPOA) has been championing for years. We are disappointed to hear that in response to the grand jury report, a county leader is attempting to publicly discredit the hard work of the citizens of this Grand Jury without providing additional factual information. These opinion-based statements continue to minimize the risks of community supervision and fall short of proactive efforts to promote best practices within the Probation Department. Once more, we praise the outstanding citizens of our community who contributed to this grand jury investigation. The Santa Cruz County Probation Officers Association would like to reassure our community and colleagues that now more than ever we are committed to promoting the safety of our officers and the effective supervision of high-risk offenders. We invite all those who are interested, to join the SCCPOA in our journey to achieve balance in our profession, and maintain the safety of our officers and the community at large.