

0 Share 0
Recommend Send Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

More felons returning to Contra Costa than anticipated

By Paul Burgarino
Contra Costa Times
Posted: 11/02/2011 11:38:49 AM PDT
Updated: 11/02/2011 08:36:01 PM PDT

More felons returned to Contra Costa County than originally anticipated in the first month after the massive realignment of the state prison system.

The county's Probation Department took responsibility for 35 former state prisoners in October, 11 more than expected, probation chief Philip Kader told local law enforcement and elected officials during a public forum at Antioch City Hall on Wednesday afternoon.

None of those former inmates have been taken back into custody, though one did not check in with probation upon release, Kader said.

To trim its bulging prison population and cut costs, California has shifted responsibility for punishing and rehabilitating thousands of nonviolent felons from the state prison system to local communities.

In preparation for the added responsibility, Contra Costa's criminal justice departments created a plan to keep communities safe and integrate lower-level offenders back into society.

Wednesday's forum, hosted by state Sen. Mark DeSaulnier, D-Concord, provided an update on efforts by the county to adapt to the realignment and the resulting challenges.

Contra Costa is experiencing some early hurdles in implementing its plans.

County leaders reiterated to DeSaulnier that they believe the \$4.6 million the state granted the county for the first nine months of realignment is inadequate.

"Everyone working on this has been immensely cooperative, and we're doing the best we can under the circumstances," County Administrator David Twa said.

Advertisement

ENTER TO LEARN
DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE
BECOME A PART OF THE BROTHERHOOD
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011
10 A.M. TO NOON
1130 Winton Drive • Concord
CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
LEAVE TO SERVE

Twa said the county originally figured it would take \$12 million each year to implement the program.

County leaders also fear the state could take away funding to house the low-level offenders.

County Supervisor Mary Nejedly Piepho, of Discovery Bay, expressed support for a proposed 2012 ballot measure amending the state Constitution to ensure that money dedicated to counties for the prison shift "could not be touched" by state legislators.

Supervisor Federal Glover, of Pittsburg, added that Contra Costa officials created a strategic plan to provide a host of health services and job training for the formerly incarcerated but have no money to implement it. Sheriff's officials say they have enough jail space for the influx but have taken significantly more parole violators into custody than initially

expected.

Undersheriff Michael Casten pointed out that it's uncertain whether the figures are a trend or an anomaly because some sentencings might have been delayed in anticipation of the realignment.

Kader said he was surprised that about 37 percent of felons handled by probation in the first month, including those returning from prison and parole revocations, were from East Contra Costa. He surmised that likely has to do with the region being the fastest-growing area of the county.

ONLINE

Advertisement
UP TO 3 YEAR NO INTEREST FINANCING!
SCORE BIG SAVINGS!
VIDEO ONLY VIEW THIS WEEK'S AD

SAN RAMON REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
Just click and get InQuickER

cars.com
Search now

Tap In BayArea
Know more. Enjoy more.
Find:
in: East Bay Go
Buy any hotdog and get a FREE Dreyer's Ice Cream from Sac's Tasty Hot Dogs of Vallejo : Expires 11/30/2011
Professional Cleaning \$45 from Cervantes & Prado Dental Care of Vallejo : Expires 11/30/2011

Dining | Ads/coupons | Claim Your Listing

Most Viewed

- (From the last 12 hours)
1. Man assaulted at gunpoint near I-680 in Pacheco
2. Cow tunnel to provide missing link for trail to connect Pittsburg...
3. Oakland Raiders believe they won't miss a beat with Michael Bush in...
4. Bay Area's five poorest neighborhoods show up in study
5. Live chat: Golden State Warriors, NBA lockout Q&A, Friday at 10 a.m.
6. Man being tried for murder wrote detailed letter of killings,...

Video of Wednesday's forum will be available in the next couple of days on state Sen. Mark DeSaulnier's website, <http://sd07.senate.ca.gov>.

Reprint BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize Return to Top

**You Might Be Interested In:**

[Police arrest principal accused of molesting girls](#) (Home - *ContraCostaTimes.com*)

[Pleasanton police asking public's help to find missing teen](#) (Home - *ContraCostaTimes.com*)

[Cow tunnel to provide missing link for trail to connect Pittsburg and Concord parks](#) (News - *ContraCostaTimes.com*)

[Oakley high school clamps down on fights spawned by Facebook](#) (News - *ContraCostaTimes.com*)

[Occupy Wall Street, brought to you by social media](#) (Business - *ContraCostaTimes.com*)

**From Around the Web:**

[Hero Dad Kidnaps Daughter's Rapist to Finally Bring Her Justice](#) (*The Stir By CafeMom*)

[This Fall, Leave Those Rakes Alone](#) (*TakePart*)

[700 state prisoners being returned to San Francisco - are we prepared?](#) (*San Francisco Examiner*)

[San Diego Restaurateur Pleads Guilty in Undocumented Workers Case](#) (*The New York Times*)

[Riot Suspect Photos Posted on Flickr By Met Police](#) (CSO)

[what's this]

**Recommendations**

[Oakland developer Phil Tagami keeps protesters at bay -- with a shotgun](#)  
100 people recommend this.

[Five people charged with murder in Antioch party slaying; police say it was over girl and gang-relat](#)  
75 people recommend this.

[Spirits, ghouls, magic and a boozier named Jack](#)  
240 people recommend this.

Facebook social plugin

• FAQ: [Article commenting how-tos and tips](#)

Recommend

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.



Add a comment...

Post to Facebook

Posting as Paul Adler (Change)

Comment

Facebook social plugin

**2.5% Mortgage Refinance**

\$160k Mortgage for \$632mo (2.9% APR)  
No SSN req.  
[lendgo.com/Mortgage](http://lendgo.com/Mortgage)

**Section 8 Housing Program**

Apply for Section 8 Benefits and get into great housing!  
[Section8-Housing.org](http://Section8-Housing.org)

**Urban Decay Cosmetics**

Free Shipping On Orders Over \$25! Use Code: 51532.  
[www.ULTA.com](http://www.ULTA.com)

[Home](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Real Estate](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Place an Ad](#) | [Advertise](#) | [Find Walnut Creek Jobs](#) | [Site Map](#) | [RSS](#)



©2011 Bay Area News Group | [Terms of Use/Privacy](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Help](#) | [About our Ads](#) | [About Bay Area News Group](#)



A MediaNews Group WEBSITE