

# **Sonoma County Probation Department Supervised Adult Crew (SAC) Program September 2010**

The Sonoma County Board of Supervisors authorized the Supervised Adult Crew (SAC) Program in 1985, when capacity limits were imposed on the County's overcrowded jail. The program is based on the criteria, rules and regulations of California Penal Code 4024.2.

Since the program was authorized, there have been no serious law violations by the offenders while completing community projects. There are currently ten SAC mobile units (up to 100 offenders) working on contract with several government agencies, which complete thousands of offender-days of community work each year. The Sonoma County Judiciary endorses the program by allowing low-risk offenders, while under Peace Officer supervision, to work off their jail time in the community while living at home. The Supervised Adult Crew (SAC) Program allows low-risk adults, with a jail sentence of 90 days or less, to work on community projects in lieu of jail. One day's supervised work earns credit for one day served in jail.

SAC crews complete capital improvement and maintenance projects for government and non-profit agencies. They develop and maintain municipal, county and state parks; build classrooms, park on-site staff residences, libraries, beach and inland park trails; refurbish historic sites; and update and maintain public buildings and grounds. They are supervised by Probation Department Peace Officer staff with construction/maintenance skills, who are specially trained in public safety and group control. Since the original 1985 program design as an "in lieu of jail" program, SAC has expanded its crew populations to serve two additional County populations; 1) week-day work crews of select, low-risk Sheriff's Department in-custody offenders who have been prescreened for public safety concerns, and 2) Human Services "Government Assistance" (GA) recipients who are required to perform work as a condition of qualifying for food stamps and rent subsidies. SAC is currently developing an additional crew population to come onboard this year: assigning SAC work crew days to adult probationers as a non-custody sanction for poor compliance with terms and conditions of probation.

Some of the advantages of this program are:

- It enhances the community by completing government and non-profit projects that are only affordable with the utilization of offender/GA labor. The County saves up to \$400,000 annually on projects that would otherwise be completed by private contracts.

- It builds a sense of community, teaches work skills, and allows crew members to work off their community debt rather than becoming a greater burden to the taxpayer. In contrast to typical offender crews assigned to roadside litter abatement, most SAC projects utilize construction or landscaping skills, allowing the crew leaders to share their trade skills with crew members, at times resulting in employment for the crew member as a result of their newly acquired skill-set.
- It recycles the tax dollar by charging fees for services at a labor savings to the taxpayer, and allows government to complete projects that would otherwise be unaffordable. Last year, SAC generated \$3,100,000 in project revenues. The program provides approximately \$1,400,000 annually in jail bed savings, in addition to returning \$2,300,000 (80% of the general fund cost) to the County General Fund.
- It allows *Probation Work Release Offenders* to work off a jail sentence during their week-ends, holidays, and vacations - and keep their jobs, continue to pay taxes, and meet family obligations; allows *Government Assistance Workers* to make a community contribution toward, and qualify for, the cost of their taxpayer's support; and allows *Sheriff In-Custody Offenders* to contribute daily labor toward taxpayer projects while still completing their jail sentences.
- Since its inception in 1985, SAC has completed more than 375,000 offender days of work on community projects, with no public safety issues. In 1999, the SAC program received the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) "Challenge Award" for the *innovations and effectiveness* of the program.

SAC crews continue to contribute to the community and participate in a low cost, constructive program that completes valuable community projects, while maintaining public safety.

**Photos of various SAC projects are attached**



Angel Island Construction



Bodega Bay Boardwalk





Wheelchair Access



Brick and Trellis



Camping Cabins





Communications Site



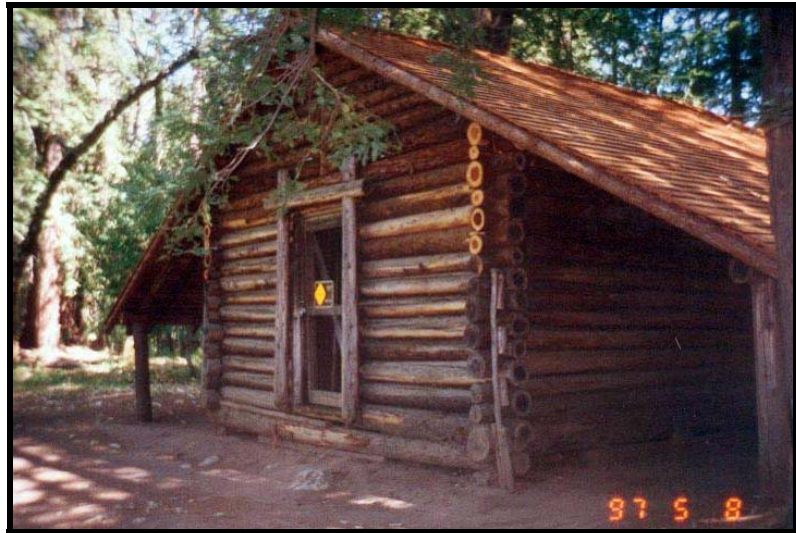
Trail Bridge







Historic Building



State Parks Car Barn





Trail Overlook Work







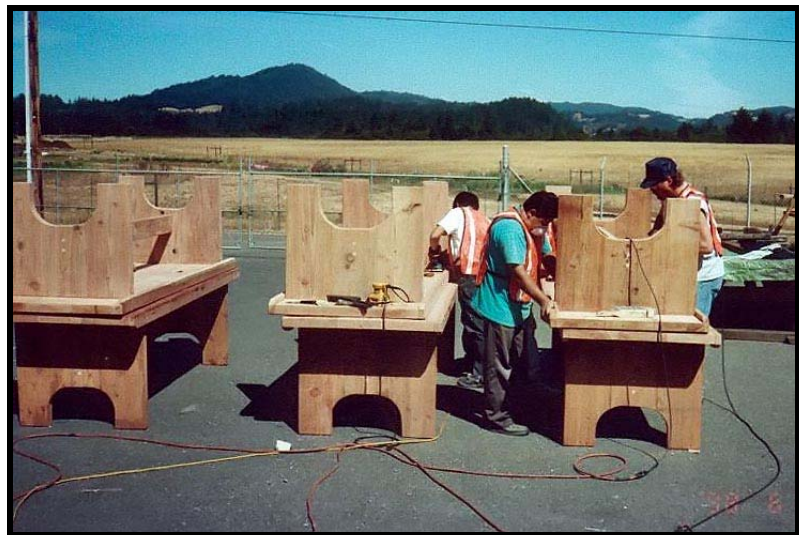
Retaining Walls





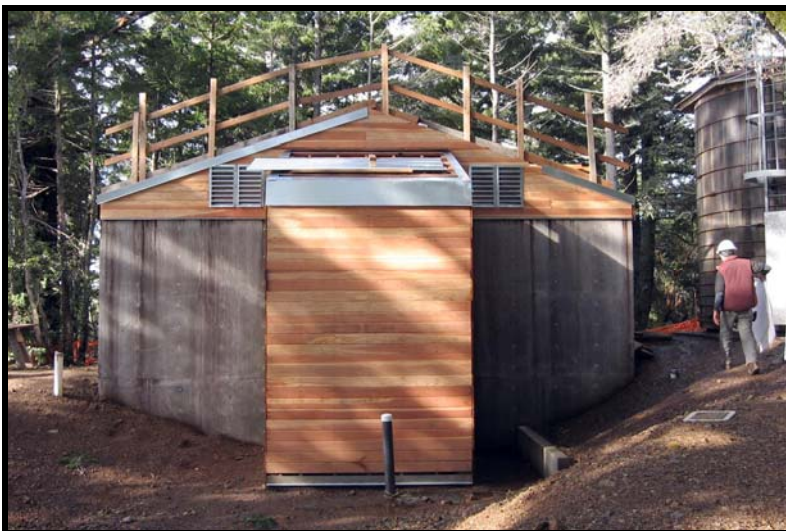


Parks Furniture





Concrete Water Tank







Trail Work



Underground Work



Steel Water Tank



Airlifted into Place





Set on Concrete Pad



Disguised as Wood Tank



***End***