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## MICHAEL J. RUBIO

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### SUPERVISOR - FIFTH DISTRICT

**June 14, 2005**

### **Supervisor Rubio Proposes GPS Tracking of Sex Offenders**

Kern County Supervisor Michael Rubio today made a referral to the Chief Probation Officer, John R. Roberts, to explore the feasibility of instituting a program in Kern County that would track sex offenders on probation via Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) technology. San Bernardino County recently created a similar program that has been praised by the public safety and victim's rights communities.

Through these GPS enabled anklets, Probation Department authorities would be able to pinpoint the precise location of any violent sex offender in Kern County within feet. Of the 7,777 felony probationers currently in Kern County, 227 of them are considered violent sex offenders (which include the following types of cases: lewd acts with a child, attempted rape, and unlawful sex with a minor). The referral initially requests the Probation Department to look into limiting the scope of this promising program to the most violent sex offenders and only during the terms of their parole. In time, Supervisor Rubio looks forward to working with the Probation Department to possibly expand the scope of these tracking efforts of these dangerous felons.

"Public safety is my top priority. We must arm the Probation Department with the tools they need to know where these dangerous sex offenders are every minute of the day, not just where they are registered," Rubio said. "Kern County residents deserve to know that if these criminals are going to be walking the streets once they have been released from prison, authorities will know where they are at all times."

In practice, with the help of this state-of-the-art technology, offenders would be excluded from entering specific zones individualized for their unique circumstances. For example, a sex offender that preys on young children would be specifically prohibited from approaching schools or playgrounds, while a domestic violence offender would be excluded from coming within a certain distance of a victim's home or place of employment.

San Bernardino County signed into a three-year contract with Sentinel Offender Services to provide these services at no cost to the County. Probationers themselves pay for the cost of administering and managing this program on a sliding scale arrangement.