



Office of the Inspector General

David R. Shaw, Inspector General

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2010

Contact:

Laura Hill

(916) 893-4538

JOHN GARDNER'S CRIMINAL BEHAVIOR AND PAROLE VIOLATIONS WENT UNDETECTED BY CORRECTIONS

SACRAMENTO—Corrections did not identify convicted sex offender John Gardner's criminal behavior and numerous parole violations reveals a report released today by California Inspector General David R. Shaw. In May, Gardner was sentenced to state prison for life without the possibility of parole for the rape and murder of two teenage girls and the assault with intent to rape of another woman in San Diego County. Had Corrections aggressively monitored Gardner's GPS data during parole for a prior sexual assault conviction, it would have identified a criminal act and numerous parole violations. Successful prosecution of Gardner's crime could have sent him back to prison potentially preventing the crimes for which Gardner is now serving a life prison term.

Corrections did not identify Gardner's crime and parole violations because it did not require parole agents to review GPS data for parolees like Gardner. The Office of the Inspector General identified this GPS monitoring weakness in its November 2009 special report on Corrections' supervision of parolee Philip Garrido. Because of that report, Corrections issued a new passive GPS monitoring policy to require parole agents to periodically review GPS data for parolees such as Gardner. Although improved, the new policy still ignores 87 percent of the GPS data collected for non high-risk sex offender parolees.

"For Corrections to effectively monitor sex offender parolees, it must revise its GPS monitoring policy to review all GPS data for parolees monitored under its passive GPS program," said Inspector General Shaw. "The department's passive GPS monitoring program still falls short of its potential and provides the public with a false sense of security, raising continuing concerns about its current and future use."

The special report makes seven recommendations to help Corrections address the deficiencies in its GPS monitoring policy. In addition, the Office of the Inspector General recommends that every parolee's central file should include parole supervision records, which Corrections should retain according to its central file retention policy. The entire report may be viewed and downloaded from the Office of the Inspector General's website at <http://www.oig.ca.gov>.

Inspector General Shaw will be available for comment on June 2, 2010, by appointment only beginning at 1:00pm. Please call Laura Hill at (916) 830-3600.

###