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SUSAN J. McCURDY  
*Executive Secretary*

BOARD OF PAROLE COMMISSIONERS

January 29, 2003

To: Senate Committee on Finance &  
Assembly Committee on Ways and Means

From: Dorla M. Salling, Chairman

Subject: Initial Budgetary Review

The following is submitted for your review at the request of the Legislative Counsel Bureau Fiscal Analysis Division:

Goals and Objectives (Performance Measurement Data)

The following is the measurement indicator data that is included in the Board of Parole Commissioner's budget for 2004-2005 biennium.

	Description	Projected 2002	Actual 2002	Projected 2003	Projected 2004	Projected 2005
1	Regular & mandatory parole hearings	6,771	6,229	6,367	6,491	6,610
2	Regular and mandatory paroles GRANTED	3,512	2,969	3,170	3,231	3,291
3	Regular and mandatory violation hearings	916	1,066	1,107	1,136	1,158
4	Regular & mandatory violations REINSTATED	250	348	356	370	376

These projections are based on the population projection provided to the Nevada Department of Corrections on March 25, 2002, and reflect a revision in the projected caseload for fiscal year 2003 based on the updated projections. The projections initially submitted for the 2002-2003 biennium were based on the forecast of a greater prison population. Included with this report is a copy of a letter from the Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections validating the methods used to make these projections.

EXHIBIT Q Senate Committee on Finance

Date: 1/29/03 Page 1 of 6

With the decrease of the prison population, the number of parole hearings has decreased with respect to the projections, however the actual number of hearings has increased over the past three fiscal years:

	FY 2000	FY 2001	FY 2002
Number of Hearings	6,751	7,019	7,295

Prior to 2001, the only means available to respond to increases in case load was to utilize the services of contracted hearing representatives. While this is a lower cost alternative to hiring additional parole commissioners, it does not eliminate the statutory requirement that each case must be concurred by a majority of the board.

As the prison population increases, the number of parole hearings also increases. The last time the board was expanded was in 1995 when a seventh commissioner was added. Since that time, the board has implemented practices to prolong the need for an additional commissioner.

#### **Video Conferencing**

The board began using video conferencing equipment on a limited basis in September 2001. By March 2002, the benefits of this technology were fully realized and the practice was implemented statewide.

The board received the approval from the Community College System of Southern Nevada to use three of their video conferencing sites on a space available basis to conduct hearings. The board located in Northern Nevada was provided space available access to the video conferencing site at Nevada State Prison and the Central NDOC office. The Western Nevada Community College also provided the space available access to their facilities.

During the past 18 months, the widespread use of this technology has begun to limit the board's access. Additional problems with using this equipment on a space available basis is the risk of being "bumped." The board has had to cancel or reschedule several hearings in as many months to the inconvenience of victims and inmates families that have traveled to attend parole hearings.

The board has requested funding to install video conferencing technology in both parole board offices in an effort to enhance the productivity of the board and create a stable hearing schedule that will benefit the board, the Department of Corrections, and interested members of the public. Without the use of video conferencing, the board believes an additional commissioner position would be necessary to conduct hearings with the level of thoughtful consideration needed to make effective decisions.

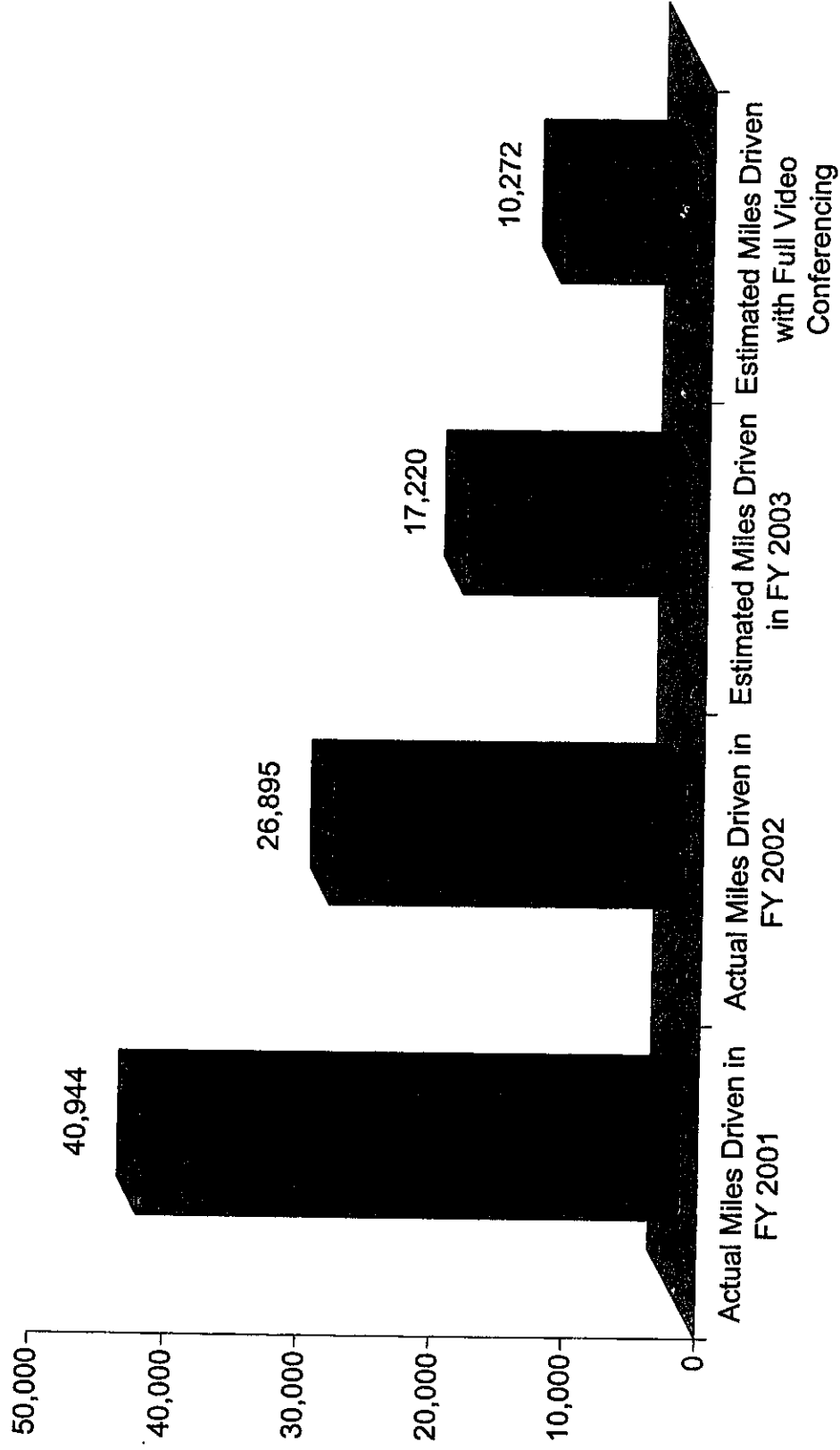
The greatest benefit realized by using video conferencing is the man-hours related to travel that are saved. The reduction in travel can translate to a savings of approximately 1,044 man hours based on the continued level of access to video conferencing. If all hearings capable of supporting video conferencing were conducted in this manner, an estimated 1,350 man-hours of travel time could be realized.

The following table depicts at a minimum, the expected costs the board would incur if the use of video conferencing was discontinued. The dollar figures relating to in-state travel and contract services are the actual savings the board incurred during FY 2002 through the use of this technology.

	Without Video Conferencing - Biennium Cost	With Video Conferencing - Biennium Cost
Addition to Instate Travel:	\$ 27,886.00	\$0.00
Addition to Contract Services:	\$ 19,444.00	\$0.00
Additional Commissioner (salary + benefits)	\$171,978.00	\$0.00
Cost of Video Conferencing	\$0.00	\$54,780.00
Projected Biennial Cost	\$219,308.00	\$54,780.00
Total savings against projected future costs: \$164,528.00		

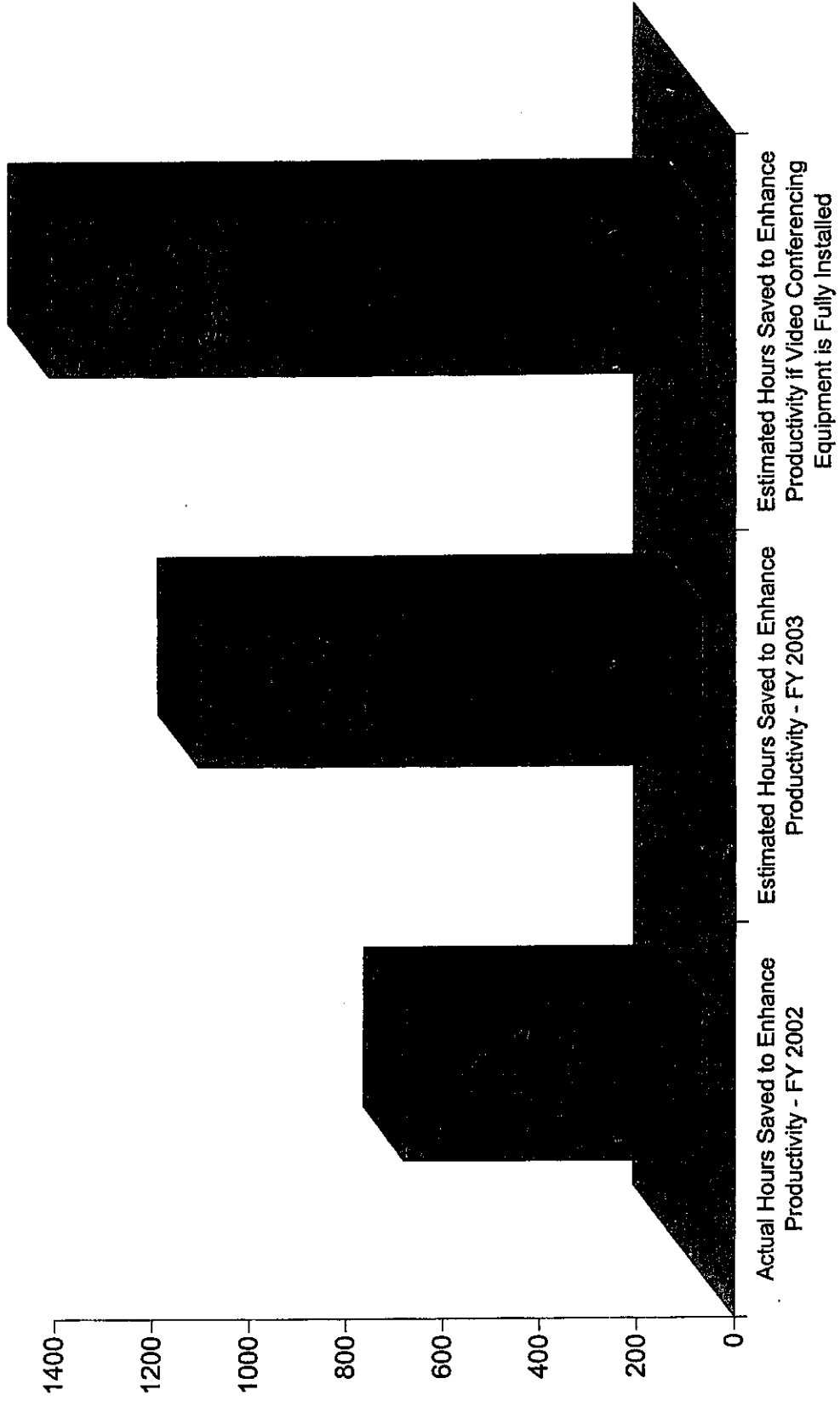
Additionally for your review, two charts depicting the reduction of miles driven by the parole board due to the use of video conferencing and the number of commissioner hours saved from traveling throughout the state to conduct hearings.

# **Nevada Board of Parole Commissioners** **Mileage Reduced Through use of Video Conferencing**



# Board of Parole Commissioners

## Commissioner Work-Hours Saved Through Use of Video Conferencing





**INSTITUTE**  
**THE**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** David Smith, Nevada Parole Board  
**FROM:** Wendy Naro *W. Naro*  
Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections  
202-408-6804  
**DATE:** January 16, 2003  
**RE:** Parole Board Hearing Forecast

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The Institute has reviewed the methods that you have used to forecast the future number of parole board hearings. We are in agreement with the methodology that you constructed and find it sound and feasible. The methodologies being utilized by the Parole Board have their foundation in the prison simulation model that the Institute is currently under contract to produce for the State of Nevada.

If you have any questions or comments do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully,

Wendy Naro  
Senior Research Scientist & Lead Forecaster  
The Institute on Crime, Justice and Corrections  
202-408-6804  
wpnaro@aol.com