Butte County Probation Department 42 County Center Drive Oroville, CA 95965 (530) 538-7661 By Gene Bullard, Senior Deputy Probation Officer

BUTTE COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT THE HONORABLE JUDGE CORIE J. CARAWAY

HEARING DATE: March 5, 2025, @ 1:30 p.m.

ACTION No: 25CF00018 PROBATION NO: A-033458

PROBATION OFFICER'S REPORT (ORIGINAL)

PEOPLE vs. Kevin Alexander Carlson

			·	
CHARGES	CODE §	OFFENSE	RANGE	PC 654/RESTRICTIONS
Ct. I	§451(c) PC	Arson of a Structure or Forest	2-4-6	None

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PRIORS/			1	
ENHANCEMENTS	CODE §	DESCRIPTION	RANGE	RESTRICTIONS
Ct. I	§451.1(a) PC	Arson With Aggravating Factors	3-4-5	None

Ct. I	§451.1(a) PC	Arson With Aggravating Factors	3-4-5	None			
RESTRICTIONS C	N PROB: 🛛 ELIC	GIBLE;					
CURRENT SERIO	CURRENT SERIOUS/VIOLENT FELONY: X YES COUNTY PRISON EXCLUSION						
PRIOR SERIOUS/	VIOLENT FELON	IY:⊠NO; 290 PC REGISTRATION	REQUIRED: 🛛 N	1O			
CONVICTED BY:	No Contest Plea	DEF.'S AGE: <u>30</u> DEFENSE A	ATTORNEY: <u>Larr</u>	y Pilgrim			
RECOMMENDAT	ION: 🛭 <u>Middle</u>	<u> Ferm</u>		•			
N.I.S.P. AGREEM	ENT ☐ YES ⊠ N	O RECOMMENDED TERM: Middle	<u>e</u>				
STATIC 99 REQU	IRED: 🗌 YES 🔀	NO DATE COMPLETED: <u>N/A</u> F	RISK LEVEL: <u>N/A</u>				
DATE OF OFFENS	SE: <u>12-11-24</u>	DATE OF ARREST: 01-02-25	DATE OF CONV	ICTION: <u>03-05-25</u>			
CUSTODIAL STA	TUS: 🛛 B.C. JAI	L 🗌 BAIL 🗌 O.R. TIME CREDITS ((DAYS): <u>63</u> ACTU	JAL; <u>62</u> §4019PC			
INVESTIGATING #24CABT-TU02		co Police Department, report #24-08	994; Cal-Fire-BT	TU Incident Report			
ARRESTING AGE	NCY: Chico Poli	ce Department					
PRIOR CONVICT	IONS: (CII NO. <u>A</u> 4	<u>42710884</u>) FELONY <u>0</u> , MISDO <u>0</u> , INF	RACTIONS <u>0</u>				
WAS DEFENDAN	IT ON PROBATIO	N/PAROLE/POST RELEASE SUPERV	VISION AT THE T	IME OF OFFENSE? <u>No</u>			
PRIOR PERFORM	ANCE ON PROBA	TION/PAROLE/POST RELEASE SUP	ERVISION: 🛭 N/	A			
1202.4(b) PC REST	Г. FINE (<u>\$2,400.00</u>	RECOMMENDED) REST. FINE SUS	SPENDED PER 12	02.45 PC \$2,400.00			
H&S CODE 11372	.5 FINE <u>N/A</u>		H&S C	ODE 11372.7 FINE <u>N/A</u>			
"I"	HAVE READ AN	D CONSIDERED THIS ENTIRE PRO	BATION REPOR	Г."			
			TIDGE OF T	THE SUPERIOR COURT			

PERSONAL HISTORY

Full Legal Name Kevin Alexander Carlson	S	Social Security Number XXX-XX-5312			
Other names used None					
Age <u>30</u>	Date of Birth	Place of Birth(City, ST.) Merced, CA			
Mailing Address					
Legal Address		Verified by The defendant			
Current Address: Butte County Jail, 7 Gillick V	Vav. Oroville, CA 95965				
Telephone <u>530-591-0930</u> How i	ong at legal address? 2 Months	With whom(names) N/A			
Relationship N/A How	long in Butte County 29 1/2 Year	cs California 29 ½ Years			
Physical description: Ht. 5'9" Wt. 160 lbs. H	Hair <u>Brown</u> Eyes <u>Hazel</u> Sex	Male Race Caucasian			
Distinguishing marks (tattoos, scars) Right arm-	-scar.				
Driver's license number F1199060 Status ⊠	valid				
If license other than valid, explain N/A					
Health (current physical condition) 🗌 good 🛛	fair poor. If other than good	d, explain The defendant claimed he			
was "not a medical professional," but he expe	riences physical and mental he	alth difficulties. He would not divulge			
these challenges with any level of specificity.					
Are you currently taking prescription medication	? <u>No</u>				
If so, list name of medication and prescribing ph	ysician. <u>N/A</u>				
Have you ever been examined /treated for menta	l or emotional problems? No				
Have you ever participated in counseling? Yes	If yes, explain (when, by who	n and diagnosis): The defendant			
explained he attempted to engage in one session of counseling at age 13. No formal diagnoses had been made but he					
possibly suffers from undiagnosed depression and anxiety.					
FAMILY:					
Father's name (natural adoptive)		Age <u>67</u>			
Father's address		Occupation			
Mother's maiden name (natural adoptive)	,	Age <u>64</u>			
Mother's address		Occupation			
Names of step-parents None					
Number of brothers 1 sisters 1 Have any fan	nily members had criminal convi	ctions? No			
If so, explain (include name, relationship and off	ense) <u>N/A</u> Additional infor	mation None			
EDUCATION:					
Highest grade completed BA-Mathematics Wh	ere California State Universit	y, Chico (CSUC) When 2018			
Are you presently attending school? No Where 1	<u> </u>				
Diploma ☑ high school ☐ GED ☑ college	trade school <u>N/A</u>				
Further educational interests None					

ORGANIZATIONS AND PERSONAL HABITS:

Religious preference Agnostic/Buddhist; Fraternal, professional associations N/A

Spare time activities Hiking, bicycling, and cooking

Alcohol use: What kind(s) Beer/Wine

How much <u>5-6 "drinks"</u> per ⊠ day ⊠ present From <u>Age 11</u> To <u>Current</u>

Drug use: What kind(s) Marijuana

How much 10 gram "edibles" per ⊠ day ⊠ present From Age 12 To 2024

Additional information: The defendant reported he experimented with Cocaine and Psilocybin Mushrooms on a few

occasions in 2018.

MARITAL:

Never married Number of children 0

MILITARY HISTORY:

⊠ No

EMPLOYMENT:

Are you presently working? No. If yes, for whom? N/A

If unemployed, for how long? 6 Months Why? Seasonal layoff.

Job skills Cooking, food service, delivery driver, tow truck driver, computer repair, and tutoring.

Name of last employer Momona

From <u>03/24</u> To <u>06/24</u>

Longest job held T Bar & Fusion Cafe

From <u>12/18</u> To <u>12/21</u>

FINANCIAL:

Source of income: Other (specify) Savings

Monthly income \$0 List assets: Cash \$0 Real property (where)\$0 Personal property (value) \$5,000.00

DEBTS: Total Owed \$0 Types of debt: Mortgage(s) \$0 Credit cards \$0 Loans (auto/personal) \$0

Average monthly living expenses <u>Unknown</u> Have you ever been sued for debts? <u>No</u>

Have you ever filed bankruptcy? No If so, when N/A Additional information The defendant reported he had

exhausted his savings just prior to his arrest for the instant offense.

DETAILS OF THE OFFENSE:

The following information was obtained from Chico Police Department, report #24-08994 and Cal-Fire-BTU Incident Report #24CABT-TU023309-11.

On December 11, 2024, at approximately 3:21 a.m., the Chico Police Department received a call from the California State University, Chico (CSUC) Police Dispatch advising the Bidwell Mansion located at 525 Esplanade in Chico was on fire. At approximately 3:25 a.m., personnel from the Chico Fire Department, Cal Fire, and the Chico Police Department responded to the scene and observed the structure was fully involved and engulfed in fire. Fire personnel were unable to save the structure as the interior and exterior of the structure were completely burned. It was noted, at the time of the fire, the Bidwell Mansion (a 146-year-old structure) was undergoing renovation and a 6-foot-tall chain link fence surrounded the museum. The total value of loss was believed to be in excess of \$50,000,000.00, not to mention the loss to the citizenry due its irreplaceable historic significance.

Surveillance video was obtained that shows a dark silhouette of a subject, later identified as Kevin Alexander Carlson (the defendant), walking near Arcadian Avenue through the CSUC campus towards the Bidwell Mansion at approximately 1:49 a.m.

At 2:05 a.m., the defendant is seen walking near the north-facing wall of the mansion.

At 2:06 a.m., an explosion and a large burst of flames was seen at the location where he was last observed. The officer noted, due to the high rate of ignition, an accelerant was used. Shortly thereafter, the defendant is seen running northbound into the parking lot past the Gateway Museum. It was noted, no other subjects were observed walking near or around the structure at that time.

With the footage of surveillance cameras from neighborhood homes, officers were able to determine that prior to the fire's ignition, the defendant drove his 2004 Toyota Highlander on West Francis Willard Avenue, turned onto Arcadian Avenue, and came to a stop. He turned off his headlights and proceeded further down the street before parking in front of a residence. He exited the vehicle, walked to the Bidwell Mansion, committed the arson, returned to his vehicle and drove away.

After searching the automated license plate reader (ALPR) system, detectives were able to locate the vehicle and were able to identify the make, model, and the vehicle's individual characteristics. This led to surveillance video that displayed the defendant's license plate. A search of the plate revealed the defendant to be the registered owner of the vehicle.

During an exhaustive investigation using a multitude of surveillance videos from homes, buildings, businesses, and educational institutions, detectives were able to track the vehicle back to the defendant's residence on Springfield Drive. It was determined the defendant removed the license plates on his vehicle, prior to the arson, in an apparent attempt to conceal his vehicle. It was also discovered the defendant's vehicle had a non-functioning third brake light and a non-functioning driver's side upper running light.

After committing the arson, the defendant went to a convenience store and was observed on security footage purchasing a large jug of water. As this was occurring, he displayed nervous behavior, as if he felt he was being watched. After the arson was conducted, the defendant was believed to have reaffixed the license plates on his vehicle.

Prior to the arson being committed, it was learned that on December 10, 2024, between 3:00 p.m., and 3:41 p.m., ALPR cameras and business security videos established the defendant went to the Oroville area and purchased supplies needed to commit the arson. He patronized at least three different businesses. Specifically, he purchased a 5-gallon plastic fuel can at Home Depot, a roll of white duct tape from WalMart, and \$20.00 worth of fuel at an AM/PM store. He returned to Chico at approximately 4:00 p.m.

At approximately 7:53 p.m., the defendant went to the Ace Hardware on West East Avenue where he purchased a pair of work gloves and a 16-ounce claw hammer. He went to Food Maxx where he purchased a container of black garbage bags. He then proceeded to the WalMart store in Chico, where he purchased a large "DuraFlame" lighter. It was noted, all these items were purchased using cash, and all could have been purchased near the defendant's residence, which would not have necessitated the need to travel the distances he traveled.

It was further noted, detectives were able to obtain a log of the defendant's cell phone activity. The defendant either turned his phone off or placed his phone in "airplane mode," to prevent the GPS system in his cellphone from tracking his movements.

On January 2, 2024, at 12:38 p.m. the defendant was arrested, transported to the Chico Police Department, and interviewed. When asked about his whereabouts on December 10 and 11, 2024, the defendant stated he did not remember. The detective informed the defendant he was there to discuss the Bidwell Mansion fire. The defendant replied, "Oh ya, that's a tragedy," and asked what it had to do with him. When detectives informed him they had enough evidence to secure an arrest warrant, he replied, "I didn't do it though." When the defendant was informed that detectives could prove he committed the crime, he lowered his head, looked straight down, and stated he did not want to discuss it, because it was "scary." He then invoked his Miranda Rights and asked for a lawyer.

He was subsequently transported and booked at the Butte County Jail for a violation of §451(c) PC.

On January 2, 2025, at approximately 4:30 p.m., the defendant's mother was interviewed at her home. She expressed the defendant had difficulty with authority figures since the 8th grade and throughout high school. His mother (indicated that the defendant, although not formally diagnosed, was suspected of being autistic, is highly intelligent, and graduated at the top of his class. He struggled in social settings and did not have many friends. He graduated from CSUC with a degree in mathematics and intended to be a teacher. However, he dropped out of the credentialing program and his life went "downhill." He has had a difficult time maintaining employment, but is frugal, and had the means to live in between jobs.

His mother explained their relationship became strained when the defendant was in the 8th grade due to his alcoholism and his intense hatred toward capitalism. In July of 2024, the defendant came to her residence. Conversations regarding politics arose and he was adamant about his hatred of capitalism. She could not understand the connection between the defendant and the arson, but surmised he may have been part of an activist group online that could have

influenced him to commit the act. Numerous times during the conversation the defendant's mother made statements such as, "I don't know how much of his brain is left?" while referring to the defendant's alcoholism. She further stated, the defendant was not a "handy-man" type individual. He would have little use for a hammer and he has no vehicles or gas operated devices that would require the use or purchase of a gas can.

As the detective was interviewing the defendant's mother, a Cal-Fire investigator interviewed the defendant's father. He stated the defendant had diametrically opposed political views from the rest of the family. He was in fervent opposition of anything related to "The Establishment," "Big Pharma," and capitalism. He has no hobbies, did not use illicit drugs other than occasional marijuana use, and frequently drank alcohol to excess.

During the last 4th of July celebration, the defendant initiated a discussion surrounding the war in Gaza. During the conversation, the defendant became uncharacteristically animated. When his family did not agree with his political views, he became agitated and left.

The defendant's father stated he was not mechanically inclined. The defendant abhorred and refused to perform manual labor, and he did not own anything with an internal combustion engine. As such, he would have no reason to purchase gloves, hammers, or fuel containers.

The defendant's brother was interviewed and indicated the defendant did not have semblance of a social life, and he had no hobbies or interests. He predominantly went to work, came home, consumed alcohol in large amounts by himself, and watched Internet videos on his laptop. He described his brother's political views as liberal, communist, Marxist, anti-war, pro-Palestinian, and viewed the world in terms of "oppressor or oppressed."

The arson investigator conducted an internet search of December 10, and noted it was recognized by the United Nations as "International Human Rights Day," and it is a historically significant day in Palestine known as "Nakba," a day of remembrance for the Palestinians who lost their homes, land, property, or otherwise were displaced by the creation of the State of Israel.

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On January 6, 2025, the Butte County District Attorney's Office filed a Criminal Complaint against the defendant alleging Count I: a violation of §451(c) PC, Arson of a Structure or Forest, a felony. A Special Allegation-Arson with Aggravating Factors pursuant to §451.1(a) PC was also alleged.

On February 5, 2025, the defendant entered a No Contest Plea to Count I and admitted the Special Allegation, as alleged. The matter was referred for a Pre-Sentence Investigation Report and placed on calendar for a Sentencing Hearing on March 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m. The defendant remains in custody at the Butte County Jail.

VICTIM INFORMATION:

On February 10, 2025, a letter was sent to representatives of the Bidwell Mansion requesting information regarding the impact of the crime, sentencing, and restitution. As of the date of this writing, no response has been received. However, numerous citizens have elected to submit impact statements, which are attached for the Court's consideration.

The Butte County District Attorney's Office provided documentation (attached for the Court's consideration) indicating the requested restitution amount is \$37,414,083. It is respectfully recommended that the Court order the defendant to pay that amount and reserve jurisdiction to modify the amount of restitution, if needed.

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT:

On February 20 2025, the defendant was interviewed at the Butte County Jail. He submitted the attached written statement for the Court's consideration. The following is a summary of his written and verbal statements.

The defendant explained the morning prior to committing the arson, he awoke in a "manic" and "anxious" type mood. He had slept a few hours that night and had only slept in small increments for the two weeks leading up to December 10, 2025. He felt "the weight of the world" on his shoulders and he was not in a good mental space. In addition to personal financial and mental difficulties, his mood was affected by the "genocide" that the United States had participated in (referring to the war in Palestine).

Bidwell Mansion. He watched a collection of homeless people nearby and observed workers on the scaffolding patching the walls with stucco. Feeling the disparity between classes made him feel as if he was witnessing a "Tale of Two Cities." He explained our government seemed to be more concerned with maintaining a mansion and protecting the legacy of "one guy" (referring to John Bidwell) known to exploit people while ignoring the less fortunate who live near the base of the mansion. At that point, his empathy toward the homeless and "oppressed" turned to anger and he felt a "childish" need to vandalize the mansion. He believed the Bidwell Mansion represented the period of Manifest Destiny, a period of history of big land owners and a "take as much as you can type of oppressive figures." He stated it was a time of exploitation and "every form of exploitation eventually cannibalizes upon itself." The defendant stated he felt as if he needed to "do something." To that end, he formulated the plan to commit the arson.

He felt "kinda weird," depressed, and disconnected from society as he walked to the

He could not recall the order of the businesses he visited, but stated he turned his cellphone off, went to numerous stores in Oroville and then came back to Chico. He purchased items which included the fuel can, the lighter, the hammer, and duct tape. After which, he went back home and waited there until early that morning. The defendant strongly denied, despite surveillance video from multiple sources, attempting to conceal his identity by removing his license plates. However, he conceded having purchased single items in numerous locations with cash to "cover his tracks."

He returned to the Bidwell Mansion with the intent to vandalize the structure; however, he claimed he did not intend to burn the entire structure, as was the result. Being that "stucco does not burn," he used the hammer to break a piece of window glass. He poured approximately one gallon of gasoline inside the structure and then made of trail of gasoline outside the window. He ignited the fuel and was running from the structure when he heard the explosion. He claimed to stop briefly with the intent to report the fire to campus security in an effort to limit the damage using a campus security phone. However, after the explosion occurred, he observed a Chico Police Department marked patrol vehicle driving on the

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Esplanade. He surmised the officer must have heard the explosion and would summon the fire department to extinguish the fire. After leaving the scene of the arson, the defendant was in a "panicky state of mind" when he went to the convenience store and purchased water. He returned home and threw the items he used in the arson in the dumpster at his apartment complex. It was not until after he watched the news, the next day, when he discovered the fire was not contained by the sprinkler system or fire alarms he assumed were in the building.

The defendant expressed remorse for the instant offense and stated he wished he would have had the presence of mind at the time he committed the instant offense to take his energy and put it in a positive direction. He requested a grant of probation and believes probation would help him better rehabilitate himself, rather than a commitment in prison. If granted probation, he would no longer engage in this behavior. In the wake of local fires, such as the Camp Fire that destroyed his parent's residence, he hated fire, and maintained he would never start another one.

The defendant acknowledged consuming alcohol and marijuana on a frequent basis. However, he was sober when he committed the instant offense and use of those substances was not a contributing factor to the crime.

The defendant did not provide a waiver of "Flash Incarceration,"

LETTERS OF REFERENCE AND INTERESTED PARTIES:

The Butte County Probation Department has not received any letters of support on behalf of the defendant.

On February 10, 2025, a letter was mailed to the arresting officer in this case, requesting his comments regarding sentencing.

PRIOR RECORD:

A Criminal Records Check was conducted. It appears the defendant has not sustained any prior criminal convictions. His California Department of Motor Vehicles abstract is attached for the Court's consideration.

DISPOSITIONAL CRITERIA: 1 2 Dispositional criteria pages are attached for the Court's use. 3 POTENTIAL PRISON TERM 4 Recommended Term Action # Count Offense Appropriate Term Enhancement 4 Years 4 Years (Middle) None 25CF00018 §451(c) PC 5 4 Years 4 Years (Pursuant to 6 §451.1(a) PC) 7 LEADING TO A GROSS UNSTAYED TERM OF EIGHT YEARS. **APPLICABLE RULES OF COURT:** 8 **Probation Eligibility:** 9 The defendant is statutorily eligible for a grant of probation. 10 Rule of Court 4.414 - Criteria Affecting Probation: 11 (a)(1) Crime Comparison: 12 The instant offense IS viewed to be more serious than other instances of the same 13 crime because the defendant specifically targeted a historical landmark to damage and the loss 14 of historical value is significant to the community. The craftsmanship of the building and items 15 stored within the building are an irreplaceable loss to numerous people. Further, the use of an 16 accelerant posed additional threats to the public and emergency responders. The crime was 17 intentional, well planned, and the defendant's goal was to satisfy his own political ideology. 18 19 (a)(5) Degree of Loss to Victim: The degree of loss to the victim is substantial, specifically the loss of the structure and 20 its contents is valued at approximately \$37,414,083.00 and the loss to the citizenry is of 21 irreplaceable historic significance. 22 (a)(6) Active Participation: 23 The defendant is viewed to be an active participant in the crime. 24 (a)(7) Unusual Circumstances: 25 The crime was not committed because of an unusual circumstance. 26 27

(a)(8) Sophistication/Professionalism:

The crime before the Court is viewed to be particularly sophisticated/professional, because the defendant made a conscious decision to commit the arson and he had over 12 hours to reconsider his decision to commit the crime. After devising the plan, the defendant turned his cellular phone off to avoid digital tracking, and purchased the supplies necessary to commit the arson. Further, he spread the purchases through many stores in two jurisdictions to avoid detection or make record from any one retailer, as he used cash in the transactions. After acquiring the supplies needed, he removed the license plates from his vehicle, went to the site, used a hammer to break the window, and knowingly poured gasoline into the structure. He used the accelerant because he believed the stucco exterior of the building was not flammable.

(b)(1) Record

The defendant's criminal record, whether as an adult or juvenile, including recency and frequency of prior crimes, reflects a pattern of regular or increasingly serious criminal conduct.

The defendant as no prior criminal record.

(b)(3) Willingness to Comply:

The defendant HAS expressed a willingness to comply with a grant of probation.

(b)(4) Ability to Comply:

Ability to comply with a grant of probation as indicated by the defendant's age, education, health, mental faculties, history of substance abuse, family support, employment, and other relevant factors.

Mage 30, the defendant is considered a mature adult. He has the benefit of a college degree; however, he has been unsuccessful at finding steady, gainful employment. He reported suffering from physical and mental health difficulties, but would not expand on his issues. Finally, he has a strained relationship with his family and feels disconnected from society.

(b)(6) Collateral Consequences

This is the defendant's first felony conviction. As such, the defendant will suffer the usual collateral consequences of such a conviction including employment barriers and restrictions on his rights.

(b)(7) Remorse:

The defendant HAS expressed remorse for his conduct.

(b)(8) Danger to Others:

The defendant is viewed to be a danger to others if not imprisoned.

Rule of Court 4.421 – Circumstances in Aggravation:

Factors relating to the crime:

(a)(8) The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication, or professionalism.

A high degree of planning was involved in the perpetration of this crime. The defendant had more than 12 hours from conception to conclusion to reconsider his actions and he went to great lengths to conceal his identity and his vehicle's identification. He knowingly removed the license plates from his vehicle and turned his telephone off when he committed the crime and purchased requisite supplies from multiple retailers in Chico and Oroville in an attempt to conceal his identity. He also used cash to conduct the transactions.

(a)(9) The crime involved an attempted or actual taking or damage of great monetary value.

The monetary damage is estimated to be approximately \$37,000,000.00.

Factors relating to the defendant:

(b)(1) The defendant has engaged in violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society.

The defendant committed the instant offense without regard for the emergency service personnel, or any parties who may have been present who responded to extinguish the fire, especially in a community that has been deeply affected by fire in recent years.

Rule of Court 4.423 - Circumstances in Mitigation:

Factors relating to the crime:

None noted.

I	Factors	relating	to the	defendant
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- (b)(1) The defendant has no prior record, or has an insignificant record of criminal conduct, considering the recency and frequency of prior crimes:
- (b)(8) The defendant voluntarily acknowledged wrongdoing before arrest or at an early stage of the criminal process.

ADDITIONAL §1170 PC SENTENCING LIMITATIONS:

Aggravating Factors:

There is a stipulation the Court may consider aggravating factors at sentencing.

DISCUSSION AND EVALUATION:

The defendant, Kevin Alexander Carlson, is before the Court having entered a No Contest Plea to a violation of §451(c) PC Arson of a Structure or Forest, a felony. He further admitted the Special Allegation as to §451.1(a) PC, Arson with Aggravating Factors. In this matter, the defendant orchestrated a plan to intentionally, and with great forethought, destroy the Bidwell Mansion. The defendant went to elaborate lengths to avoid detection by turning off his cellular telephone to avoid GPS tracking while he traveled to numerous retailers in Chico and Oroville purchasing each item, separately with cash, used to commit the arson. He removed the license plates from his vehicle, proceeded to the Bidwell Mansion in the early morning hours of December 11, 2024, broke a side window and used an accelerant to light the blaze. The fire completely destroyed the 146-year-old museum and its irreplaceable contents.

During the probation interview, the defendant admitted having committed the arson and the details of the crime with one exception: he denied having removed or altering his license plates to avoid detection as alleged. He was motivated by a political ideology that the mansion represented the dichotomy between the rich and poor and he felt he needed to "do something." The defendant claimed he did not mean to destroy the entire structure, he only sought to vandalize it.

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As noted above, the defendant is statutorily eligible for a grant of probation. In order to determine his suitability for such a grant, Rule of Court 4.414 was reviewed. The defendant does not appear to be suitable for a grant probation at this time, as the crime was well planned, thought out, and willful. He took numerous steps to conceal his identity, his vehicle's identity, and his phone's GPS tracker. There were no factors present during the commission of the crime, such as a drug or alcohol addiction, for which the defendant could benefit from through treatment services while on a grant of probation.

If the Court is inclined to sentence the defendant to a prison term, Rules of Court 4.421 and 4.423 were reviewed to determine the appropriate term. Based on the facts as noted above, the middle term appears to be the appropriate term for both the felony conviction and the supporting Special Allegation.

It is noted if the defendant is sentenced to a prison term, he will be housed in a State Prison Facility pursuant to §1170(h) PC, as a violation of §451(c) PC is classified as a serious felony pursuant to §1192.7(c) PC.

The defendant appears able-bodied, and although presently unemployed, he has marketable job skills. Therefore, he should be able to comply with any financial conditions or orders to pay restitution imposed by the Court. The defendant completed a Defendant's Statement of Assets (Judicial Council form CR-115), which has been attached for the Court's consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Court is respectfully referred to the attached Recommendation pages.

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1			RECOMMENDATION- State Prison	
2	It is re	espec	ectfully recommended that probation in the matter of <u>Kevin Alexander Carlson</u> be denied. It is ly recommended that the defendant be advised and/or ordered to:	
3	\boxtimes	1.		
4	\boxtimes	2.	Pay a State Restitution fine, suspended per §1202.45 PC in the amount of <u>\$2,400.00</u> (Offenses after 08-03-95)	
5	\boxtimes	3.	Pay a mandatory \$40.00 Court Operations Assessment (per §1465.8 PC).	
6	\boxtimes	4.	Pay a mandatory \$30.00 Conviction Assessment fee (per §70373 GC).	
7		5.	Pay restitution to victim <u>Bidwell Mansion State Historic Park</u> in the amount of <u>\$37,414,083.00</u> and the Court reserves jurisdiction to modify the amount of restitution and any accumulated interest on that amount that accrues as of the date of sentencing (per 1202.4(f)(3)(G) PC).	
8	\boxtimes		Within 48 hours of release from the Department of Corrections, report to the parole office closest to your last legal residence pursuant to §1170(a)(3) PC.	
10	\boxtimes		Pursuant to §3000.01 PC the defendant shall be on parole for a period of two (2) years following his release from custody.	
11			Pursuant to §296(a)(1) PC and/or Proposition 69, you shall be required to provide two specimens of blood, a saliva sample, right thumbprints, and a full palm print impression of each hand for law enforcement identification analysis.	
12		9.	Defendant to immediately familiarize himself with and thereafter comply with the registration requirements pursuant to §457.1 PC Arson Offender Registration.	
13 14			Respectfully submitted, Melissa Romero	
	25CF	F000	Chief Probation Officer	
15	Revi	ewed	d & Approved: (CB)	
16			Gene Bullard, Senior Deputy Probation Officer	
17			Judge of the Superior Court	
18 19			Judge of the Superior Source	
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Case No. 25CF00018

RULE 4.414: CRITERIA AFFECTING PROBATION

(a) FACTS RELATING TO THE CRIME, INCLUDE:

- (1) The nature, seriousness and circumstances of the crime, as compared to other instances of the same crime;
- (2) Whether the defendant was armed with or used a weapon;
- (3) The vulnerability of the victim;
- (4) Whether the defendant inflicted physical or emotional injury;
- (5) The degree of monetary loss to the victim;
- (6) Whether the defendant was an active or a passive participant;
- (7) Whether the crime was committed because of an unusual circumstance, such as great provocation, which is unlikely to recur;
- (8) Whether the manner in which the crime was carried out demonstrated criminal sophistication or professionalism on the part of the defendant; and
- (9) Whether the defendant took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the crime.

(b) FACTS RELATING TO THE DEFENDANT, INCLUDE:

- (1) Prior record of criminal conduct, whether as an adult or juvenile, including the recency and frequency of prior crimes; and whether the prior record indicated a pattern of regular or increasingly serious criminal conduct;
- (2) Prior performance on probation or parole and present probation or parole status;
- (3) Willingness to comply with the terms of probation;
- (4) Ability to comply with reasonable terms of probation as indicated by the defendant's age, education, health, mental faculties, history of alcohol or substance abuse, family background and ties, employment and military service history, and other relevant factors;
- (5) The likely effect of imprisonment on the defendant and his or her dependents;
- (6) The adverse collateral consequences on the defendant's life resulting from the felony conviction;
- (7) Whether the defendant is remorseful; and
- (8) The likelihood that if not imprisoned, the defendant will be a danger to others.

(c) SUITABLITY FOR PROBATION

In determining the suitability of the defendant for probation, the court may consider factors in aggravation and mitigation, whether or not those facts have been stipulated to by the defendant or found true beyond a reasonable doubt at trial by a jury or the judge in a court trial.

RULE 4.421: CIRCUMSTANCES IN AGGRAVATION

[] NONE NOTED.

(a) FACTS RELATING TO THE CRIME, WHETHER OR NOT CHARGED OR CHARGEABLE AS ENCHANCEMENTS, INCLUDING THE FACT THAT:

- (1) The crime involved great violence, great bodily harm, threat of great bodily harm, or other acts disclosing a high degree of cruelty, viciousness, or callousness;
- (2) The defendant was armed with or used a weapon at the time of the commission of the crime;
- (3) The victim was particularly vulnerable;
- (4) The defendant induced others to participate in the commission of the crime or occupied a position of leadership or dominance of other participants in its commission;
- (5) The defendant induced a minor to commit or assist in the commission of the crime;
- (6) The defendant threatened witnesses, unlawfully prevented or dissuaded witnesses from testifying, suborned perjury, or in any other way illegally interfered with the judicial process;
- (7) The defendant was convicted of other crimes for which consecutive sentences could have been imposed but for which concurrent sentences are being imposed;
- (8) The manner in which the crime was carried out indicates planning, sophistication or professionalism;
- (9) The crime involved an attempted or actual taking or damage of great monetary value;
- (10) The crime involved a large quantity of contraband; and
- (11) The defendant took advantage of a position of trust or confidence to commit the offense.
- (12) The crime constitutes a hate crime under section 422.55 and:
 - (A) No hate crime enhancements under section 422.75 are imposed; and
 - (B) The crime is not subject to sentencing under section 1170.8.

(b) FACTS RELATING TO THE DEFENDANT, INCLUDE THE FACT THAT:

- (1) The defendant has engaged in violent conduct that indicates a serious danger to society;
- (2) The defendant's prior convictions as an adult or sustained petitions in juvenile delinquency proceedings are numerous or of increasing seriousness;
- (3) The defendant has served a prior prison term;
- (4) The defendant was on probation or parole when the crime was committed; and
- (5) The defendant's prior performance on probation or parole was unsatisfactory.

(c) ANY OTHER FACTS STATUTORILY DECLARED TO BE CIRCUMSTANCES IN AGGRAVATION:

- (1) The robbery or attempted robbery was committed for the purpose of stealing drugs ... pursuant to §1170.7 PC.
- (2) Obscene material was used to induce a minor to partake of lewd and lascivious activity...pursuant to §1170.71 PC.
- (3) The defendant sold or gave drugs to a minor knowing the minor was under 11 years of age...pursuant to §1170.72 PC.
- (4) The crime involved methamphetamine and the meth as in the crystalline form...pursuant to §1170.74 PC.

- (5) The crime was committed against another because of their race or other "orientation"...pursuant to §1170.75 PC.
- (6) The arson was committed in retaliation...pursuant to §1170.78 PC.
- (7) The crime was committed in a church...pursuant to §1170.8 PC.
- (8) The crime was committed against a peace officer and the defendant knew or should have known the victim was a peace officer...pursuant to §1170.81 PC.
- (9) The defendant provided drugs to a woman, knowing she was pregnant...pursuant to §1170.82 PC.
- (10) The defendant tied, bound, or confined the victim...pursuant to §1170.84 PC.
- (11) When there is a true enhancement under various sections of 12022 PC and the perpetrator knew the gun in question was stolen...pursuant to §1170.89 PC.

RULE 4.423: CIRCUMSTANCES IN MITIGATION

[] NONE NOTED

(a) FACTS RELATING TO THE CRIME, INCLUDE THE FACT THAT:

- (1) The defendant was a passive participant or played a minor role in the crime;
- (2) The victim was an initiator of, willing participant in, or aggressor or provoker of the incident;
- (3) The crime was committed because of an unusual circumstance, such as great provocation, that is unlikely to recur;
- (4) The defendant participated in the crime under circumstances of coercion or duress, or the criminal conduct was partially excusable for some other reason not amounting to a defense;
- (5) The defendant, with no apparent predisposition to do so, was induced by others to participate in the crime;
- (6) The defendant exercised caution to avoid harm to persons or damage to property, or the amounts of money or property taken were deliberately small, or no harm was done or threatened against the victim;
- (7) The defendant believed that he or she had a claim or right to the property taken, or for other reasons mistakenly believed that the conduct was legal;
- (8) The defendant was motivated by a desire to provide necessities for his or her family or self; and
- (9) The defendant suffered from repeated or continuous physical, sexual, or psychological abuse inflicted by the victim of the crime; and the victim of the crime, who inflicted the abuse, was the defendant's spouse, intimate cohabitant, or parent of the defendant's child; and the facts concerning the abuse do not amount to a defense.
- (10) If a firearm was used in the commission of the offense, it was unloaded and inoperable.

(b) FACTS RELATING TO THE DEFENDANT, INCLUDE THE FACT THAT:

- (1) The defendant has no prior record, or has an insignificant record of criminal conduct, considering the recency and frequency of prior crimes;
- (2) The defendant was suffering from a mental or physical condition that significantly reduced culpability for the crime;
- (3) The defendant experienced psychological, physical, or childhood trauma, including, but not limited to, abuse, neglect, exploitation, or sexual violence and it was a factor in the commission of the crime;
- (4) The commission of the current offense is connected to the defendant's prior victimization or childhood trauma, or mental illness as defined in §1385(c);
- (5) The defendant is, or was a victim of intimate partner violence or human trafficking, at the time of the commission of the offense, and it was a factor in the commission of the offense;

- (6) The defendant is under 26 years of age, or was under 26 years of age at the time of the commission of the offense;
- (7) The defendant was a juvenile when the committed the current offense.
- (8) The defendant voluntarily acknowledged wrongdoing before arrest or at an early stage of the criminal process;
- (9) The defendant is ineligible for probation and but for that ineligibility would have been granted probation;
- (10) Application of an enhancement could result in a sentence over 20 years.
- (11) Multiple enhancements are alleged in a single case;
- (12) Application of an enhancement could result in a discriminatory racial impact;
- (13) An enhancement is based on a prior conviction that is over 5 years old.
- (14) The defendant made restitution to the victim; and
- (15) The defendant's prior performance on probation or parole was satisfactory.

RULE 4.408 ADDITIONAL FACTORS:

Name: Carlson, Keuin Alexander Case #25070018

BUTTE COUNTY PROBATION DEPARTMENT 42 County Center Drive, Oroville CA 95965 (530) 538-7661

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT

In order that your application for probation can be given proper consideration, please answer the following questions in the space provided below.

- 1. Write in your own words the version of your present offense.
- 2. What were your reasons for becoming involved in this difficulty?
- 3. Have you been arrested before, either as a juvenile or as an adult? If so, indicate the date, charge, place, and disposition (sentence).
- 4. What are your plans for the future?

Add additional standard size pages, if needed. Please DO NOT write on the back of any pages.

1. I Kein Alexander Carlson, am writing this defindant
statement because I set fire to the Bidwell
Marsion with the use of gasoline early in the
morning of 11 October, 2024.
L. On October 10,2024, I decided to go to
take a walk downtown Chico, CA. I purchased
a slice of pizza and vent for a walk across
Big Chico Creek. I was not in a good mental
space; I hadn't slept well in weeks and hadn't
been eating well. I think I may have been
in a manic state at that time however

I am not a medical professional. I had been stressed about making rent, had been feeling unwell that months and felt in the moment as though I would be dead before the end of the year. My memory is a little hazy from lack st sleep and poor diet, but I remember All I of the I remember fulling a deen sense of alleration as I walked by people going about their day; students between classes pedestrians and drivers going about their days. I passed by a proup of unhoused people in the outdoor auditorium and saw Someone actively injecting themself with a suringe.

At this time I was extremely depressed feeling hopeless about life after mother newastrating time Season, having matched a live-streamed genocitée funded by six Notion on my shore, observing and experience the stress of the housing crisis, and feeling self-pity about my own life inability: to improve my own situation.

Let alone the many intractable social issues bouncing around my steen deprived head.

In that bitter state of mind. I walked by Bidwell Marsian. It was under construction, surrounded by multi-level scattolding, in a dozen or so workers and a chain which fence. Looking at the disparity between those

parts of my community, my girlets. shifted. quickly to anger and in a Snap judgment I decided I wanted to varialize the marsion. I. understand that behavior is unacceptable; in the moments however, my anger latched on to that sense of purpose. Treturned to my apartment. I turned off my phone drove to Oroville bought the items mentioned in the police report and drove back to Chico. I barght some additional items in Chico, and returned to my apartment. Around 2 a.m. 11, October 2024, I drove downtown, parked, brought the gas con. hommer, and lighter to the Bidwell Marsian. I hopped the fence, broke a window on the north side of the building, poured dusoline, and ignited Moments after igniting the fire, a blast came: From the vapors of the gas and a Chico Police Pepartment SUV drove past northbound on Esplanade, The energency call box and reporting the fire, In that moment, I thought the officer had seen the flash and I ran back to my car to leave. The suppression system in place. It was never my intention to cause that much standard danger

though I guess that doesn't court for much at this point. I drove back to my apartment. participly, changel clothes and drove to my 11. to buy some cold water. I returned to my apartment and exercically fell as leep. I voke up around noon 11 October 2024 disoriented. The previous day felt surreal. I checked the news feed and my stomach dropped at the news. I should have turned myself in that day, but should's don't change what happened. I snew much of the time between then and my arrest in devial not sure whether turning myself h would be better or worse, still feeling like I would be dead before the new year, and not Sure what to do. My sawlys were about to run out, and pretty much the last of them werts to January's rent, I was arrested January 2, 2025, and did now feel like I was thinking dearly or had a serse of equilibrium for the first from weeks in jail. Eventually Mr. Pilgrim and I agreed pleading No Contest and not washing more State resources was the best course of action. On 5 Februar, 2015 I pled No bontest to the charges brought against me by the State of California.

3. I have not been arrested before.

4. My plans for the future are as
Mons:
i) Serve the incorceration sentance deemed necessary
1) Serve the incarceration semance deemed necessary
tox this case.
ii) Provide restitution within my means for the
demage I caused.
iii) Rehabilitate and integrate as a productive;
positive member of society.
iv) Find a career and community in which I
can be useful and thrive.
can be useful and thrive.
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	FOR COURT LISE ONLY
NAME OF VICTIMON WHOSE BEHALF RESTITUTION IS ORDERED:	FOR COURT USE ONLY
NAME OF COURT: Butte County Superior Court	
STREET ADDRESS: One Court Street	
MAILING ADDRESS: One Court Street	
CITY AND ZIP CODE: Oroville, CA 95965	
PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
O o lo	CHAIN.
	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT OF ASSETS	25CF00018
It is a misdemeanor to make any willful misstatement of material t	act in completing this form. (Pen. Code, § 1202.4(f)(4).)
(Attach additional sheets if the space provided	below for any item is not sufficient.)
PERSONAL INFORMATION 1. a. Name: Kevin Alexander Carlson 5. Driver State	license number: F1199660
i alfa	of issuance: CA e address (incl. citytzin): NA
	a tolophone no :
	e telephone no.: N/A
7 1	uyer's telephone no IV! 71
EMPLOYMENT	d name of division or office in which you work)
2. What are your sources of income and occupation? (Provide job title an	u name of division of office in which you workly
a. Name and address of your business or employer (include address of your business)	of your payroll or human resources department, if different):
3. a. Name and address of your business of employer (<i>include address</i> of MID)	your payton or namentalization and
b. If not employed, names and addresses of all sources of income (spe	ecify):
N1 b	o courses NIA
4. How often are you paid (for example, daily, weekly, biweekly, monthly)	(Specify): ** [**
5. What is your gross pay each pay period? \$ \(\int_{\text{.}}\)	•
6. What is your take-home pay each pay period? \$ 0.00	and address of the trustment or applicant job title and
If your spouse earns any income, give the name of your spouse, the n	ame and address of the business of employer, job tide, and
division or office (specify):	•
N (H	
8. Other sources of income (specify):	
NA	
10 10v	
CASH, BANK DEPOSITS	
9. How much money do you have in cash? \$	dit unions, and other financial institutions either in your own
10. How much other money do you have in banks, savings and loans, cre	uit autoria, tana attier mitaliolat trettatavira citata in 1421 atti
name or jointly (list):	nt number Individual or joint? Balance
Admit dita dedicase or minutes are	nt number Individual or lome?
a. Wells targo	
b. V	\$
c.	\$
•	
PROPERTY	ininfly Local current if different
11. List all automobiles, other vehicles, and boats owned in your name or	from registered owner Amount owed
a. Toyota Highlander 2004 \$ 3500	\$ 6.00
b. solve tright codes	\$
C. \$	\$
(Continued on rev	Page 1 of

PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA vs.	CASE NUMBER:
DEFENDANT:	
List all real estate owned in your name or jointly: Address of real estate	Fair market value Amount owed
	s NA s NA
a. N [A	\$. \$
b.	•
THER PERSONAL PROPERTY (Do not list household furniture	and furnishings, appliances, or clothing.)
List anything of value not listed above owned in your name or jointly	(continue on attached sheet if frecessary) Address where properly is located
<u>Description</u> <u>Value</u>	ACCIONS WHERE Property is induced
a. N/A 5 N/A	NIT
b. \$	
c.	
SSETS	and withing (appoint):
List all other assets, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other	securities (specify).
AIN	
Is anyone holding assets for you? Yes No If yes,	describe the assets and give the name and address of the
person or entity holding each asset (specify):	
person of entry floraing odds debut (ep a may).	
	the second of or transferred any
Except for attorney fees in this matter and ordinary and routine house	ehold expenses, have you disposed of or translated any
accets since your arrest on this matter?	es Live No
If yes, give the name and address of each person or entity who recei	ved any asset and describe each asset (specify).
EBTS	
. Loans (give details):	
NIA	
B. Taxes (give details):	
• IT	
N (A	
Support arrearages (attach copies of orders and statements):	
Ala	
Credit cards (give creditor's name and address and the account num	ber):
), Credit calds (give creditors hains and address and the	•
N A	
I. Other debts (specify):	
NIA	a. M /
111125	· /// / //
ate:	
()]	Rem Lo h
(TYPE OR PRINT NAME)	(SIGNATURE)
INTERPRETER'S STA	TEMENT
having been duly sworn or having a written oath on file, certify that I tr	uly translated this form to the defendant in the language note
having been duly sworn or having a written dath on me, certify that it is elow.	
- Ottors (specifield)	
anguage: Spanish Cither (specify).	
	DATE
(INTERPRETER'S SIGNATURE)	D.IIC
(TYPE OR PRINT INTERPRETER'S NAME)	(CERTIFICATION NUMBER)
to the section of the section of	Page 2

DEFENDANT'S STATEMENT OF ASSETS

CR-115 [Rev. Jan. 1, 2020]

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION Facilities and Development

CONCEPTUAL CONSTRUCTION COST ESTIMATE

UNIT: Bidwell Mansion SHP

Bidwell Mansion Rebuild

LOCATION: Chico, CA

PROJECT:

ESTIMATE DATE: 1.23.25

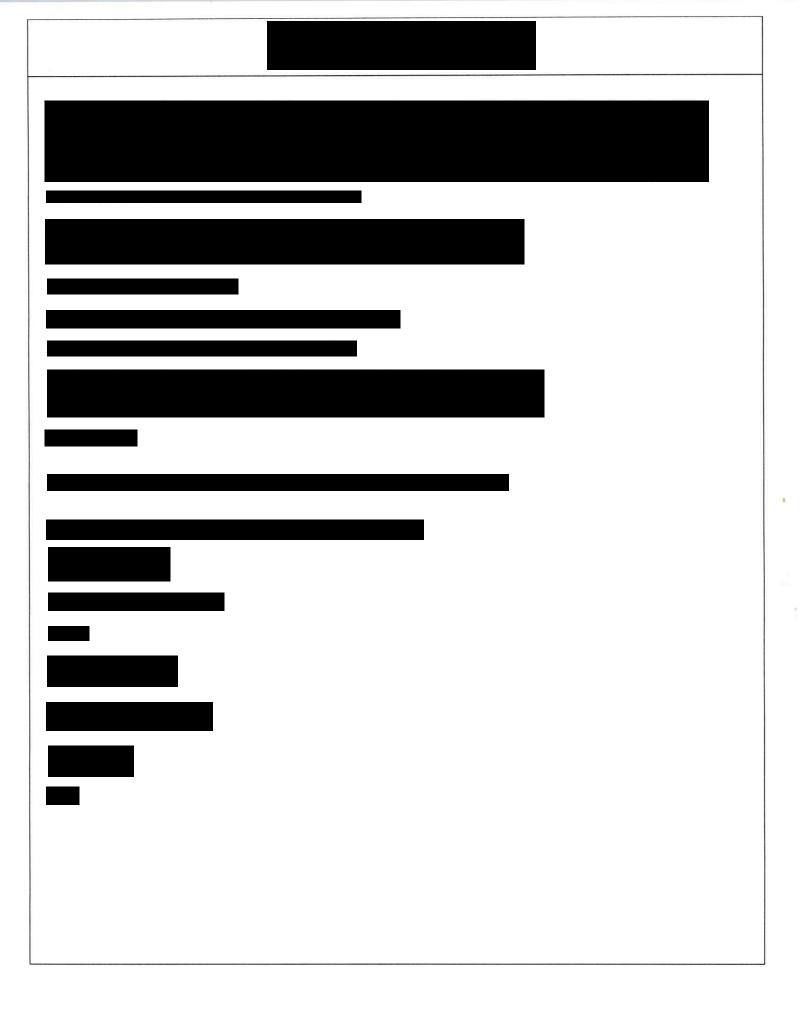
PROJECT NUMBER:

PREPARED BY: MB

TOTAL ESTIMATED BUDGET

\$37,414,083

CSI	ITEM DESCRIPTION	UNIT	QUANTITY	UNIT COST	TOTAL COST
Demolition	Remove Rubble Exterior & Interior	LS	1	\$150,000.00	\$150,000.00
	Stabilize remaining walls	LS	1	\$100,000.00	\$100,000.00
	Demolish & dispose of Structure	SF	8,000	\$25.00	\$200,000.00
Haz Mat	Soil Sampling	LS	1	\$6,850	\$6,850
Remediiation		LS	1	\$50,000	\$50,000
	Excavation & Soil Disposal; Impacted soil 10,000 square feet x 1.5' depth = 600 Cubic Yards RCRA waste	CY	600	\$677	\$406,250
	Reporting	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,000
New Con	Import & Place Clean Structural Fill Soil	CY	600	\$50	\$30,000
INEW COIL	Construct Mansion to Current Code	LS	1	\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
	Construct Mansion to Current Code	LS		\$15,000,000	\$15,000,000
	Match Historical Finish Carpentry	LS	1	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000
		SUBTOTAL, Hard Costs		\$20,968,100	
		10%	General Cor	nditions	\$2,096,810
		5%	Geographic	al Escalation	\$1,048,405
		SUBTO	TAL		\$24,113,315
		15% Contractors O & P			\$3,616,997
		3%	Bonds & Ins	urance	\$723,399
		ESTIM/	ATED CONTR	RACT COST	\$28,453,711
		10%	Change Ord	ler Contingency	\$2,845,371
		-	A&E Design		\$4,700,000
			CEQA Com		\$175,000
			Museum & I		\$350,000
			Cultural Her		\$125,000
			Natural Heri	tage	\$25,000
				vey/Analysis	\$75,000
				Management	\$200,000
			Project Man		\$25,000
			Inspection		\$400,000
			Accessibility	Approval	\$15,000
	NEED DISTRICT INPUT		Furniture &		
		4	Permits		\$25,000
		SUBTO	TAL		\$37,414,083
			COTINANTED	51156==	AAT ::: ===



PRESENTENCE CREDITS, PEOPLE vs. Kevin Alexander Carlson

25CF00018

The defendant was in custody as follows exclusively because of the conduct for which convicted in this case.

		Dates		Total
		From	To	Days
A.	Local Time			•
	Butte County Jail	01-02-25	03-05-25	63

TOTAL ACTUAL TIME:

63 DAYS

§4019 PC Credits:

62 DAYS

(crimes committed after 10-1-11:

total days / 2 x 2)

NET TOTAL TIME PLUS CREDITS:

125

DAYS

(Time computed through March 5, 2025)

Gene Bullard, Senior Probation Officer

Pursuant to §1191.3(b) PC, the Probation Officer estimates that as many as <u>1,398</u> days conduct and work-time credits may be earned by the defendant if he is committed to prison for the recommended <u>8 Year (Middle)</u> term.