

Clerk for the Board of Supervisors, Michael Allen  
County Executive Office  
105 E. Anapamu St., Room 407  
Santa Barbara, Calif., 93101

January 15, 2016


Re: Departmental Item 1. The Committee to Improve North County supports Sheriff Brown in reapportioning the \$38 million secured for Santa Barbara County Corrections.

The Committee to Improve North County encourages the Board of Supervisors to maintain its Conditional Award under SB 1022 for the amount of \$38,976,000 to build an additional structure on the Northern Branch Jail property in Santa Maria. Building a new facility using this award and limited county dollars is wise use of available resources. The influx of a large amount of state funding into our local economy would also benefit all county residents, and provide needed jobs where the effects of unemployment have been the hardest hit in North County.

Since the Board has chosen not to support additional needed jail beds, we encourage the Board to continue to approach the Board of State and Community Corrections, to accept a modified scope of this project to target a different category of criminal justice client. The ability to provide residential, non-custodial treatment in a portion of the facility is a reasonable and needed alternative concept that would directly benefit not only the Santa Maria Valley, and Northern Santa Barbara County, but all county residents. Those experiencing addiction, co-occurring disorders and clients who can handle non-custodial treatment would greatly benefit from this facility.

Identifying a part of the custodial wing for targeted treatment could benefit the mentally ill inmate, and move them to the residential housing even earlier would improve the success rates of these justice system clients, and save needed taxpayer dollars as the justice system becomes more efficient.

Regards,



Dave Cross, Vice-President  
Committee to Improve North County  
[dcross@impulse.net](mailto:dcross@impulse.net)  
805 928-6463