



Katherine Douglas *Public Comment, Jail System Housing*

From: gregortiz71@yahoo.com
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 1:14 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Opposition to the Northern Branch Jail Expansion

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April 16, 2026

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors
105 East Anapamu Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
RE: Opposition to the Northern Branch Jail Expansion

Dear Supervisors,
I am writing to urge you to lower the proposed jail expansion of the Northern Branch Jail. I am particularly concerned about the risk of **induced demand**. Increasing jail capacity frequently leads to just more incarceration simply because the space is available. When extra jail cells exist, there is less pressure to use more effective alternatives like supervised probation or mental health diversion. If we build this expansion, we risk making jail the "default" solution rather than a last resort. Instead of increasing capacity, we should invest in, mental health services, pre-trial division and more community support funding for housing and social safety nets to address the root causes of incarceration. Prioritizing rehabilitation and care over simply adding more cells is a vital consideration for the justice system. Focusing on long-term community health by scaling back this project is a recommended course of action.

Sincerely,
Greg Ortiz