



From: Mona Miyasato  
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 9:17 AM  
To: sbcob  
Subject: Fw: Taxpayers Association Position on SB County Jail

From: ALAN EBENSTEIN <lannyebenstein@aol.com>  
Sent: Monday, March 31, 2025 9:01 AM  
To: Roy Lee <roylee@countyofsb.org>; Laura Capps <lcapps@countyofsb.org>; Joan Hartmann <jHartmann@countyofsb.org>; Bob Nelson <bnelson@countyofsb.org>; Steve Lavagnino <slavagnino@countyofsb.org>  
Cc: Mona Miyasato <mmyasato@countyofsb.org>; Brown, Bill <wfb4029@sbsheriff.org>  
Subject: Taxpayers Association Position on SB County Jail

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors:

Thank you for your service to the community.

The Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association fully and wholeheartedly endorses the 2 Pod plan for improvement of the County Jail. We consider this to be a matter of genuine public safety for the county and all of the communities in it.

There is no higher responsibility of government than maintaining public order. Particularly at the local level, ensuring public safety is the first priority of cities and counties.

Sheriff Brown and the Deputy Sheriffs Association strongly endorse the 2 Pod plan. The Board of Supervisors should give the men and women who protect us the resources they need to do their job.

Approximately 90% of those currently in the jail are in jail for felonies. If the 2 Pod plan were not approved, more individuals who have committed serious crimes will be on the streets.

Diversion programs are good, and have been significantly increased in recent years. But this does not alleviate the need for adequate jail facilities for individuals who have committed serious crimes and who pose a genuine threat to the community.

The 2 Pod plan will especially benefit lower socioeconomic communities. It is individuals in these communities who are harmed the most when dangerous individuals are on the streets rather than in jail.

The Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association appreciates that this will not be an inexpensive proposal, but it would become more expensive over time. This is a long-term investment in Santa Barbara County's public safety.

Please note that it is not possible to have jails at 100% capacity. This would result in overcrowding and unsafe conditions for both inmates and jail personnel. Men and women, for example, have to be separated in the jail; members of different gangs have to be separated; there are more arrests at certain times than others--for these and other reasons, the jail has to operate at less than 100% capacity, with a maximum optimal loading factor of about 85%.

The County has experienced many years of litigation over inadequate jail facilities. The 2 Pod plan is required to provide the capacity to ensure that litigation and insufficient jail conditions do not continue.

It is indeed a "thin blue line" that maintains safety for all of us. Those who constitute this line need your support. Please approve the 2 Pod plan.

Thank you for your consideration and, again, your service to the community.

Sincerely,  
Lanny Ebenstein, Ph.D., President  
Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association