



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Sheriff's Department
Department No.: 032
For Agenda Of: 2/12/08
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Sheriff Bill Brown, Ext 4290
Contact Info: Tom Jenkins, Ext 4249
SUBJECT: County Jail – Northern Branch, AB 900 Proposal

Recommended Actions: That the Board set a hearing for February 19th, 2008, to receive a status report and presentation of the request for proposal submission to the Corrections Standards Authority to enter into an agreement to accept an award on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara for construction of a county jail.

Summary Text:

Sheriff Bill Brown will conduct a presentation and present a staff study to the Board of Supervisors at the hearing on February 19, 2008. The Staff study will provide a status report of the request for proposal (RFP) submission to the Corrections Standards Authority (CSA). The CSA is acting as the approval agency for the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) to authorize up to \$80 million with a 25% local match funding for the construction of new jail beds under Assembly Bill 900.

The AB-900 Request for Proposal will be brought before the Board on March 4, 2008. The County's response to the RFP (Proposal) will list the costs to the County for the required match. The Board will be asked to authorize the Sheriff to sign and submit the Proposal application, and to enter into an agreement to accept an award on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara.

Background:

The need for a new County jail facility was identified over 20 years ago and subsequent Grand Jury reports have reiterated that need. Since 1986 it has been under a court-ordered population capacity limit requiring the Sheriff to release offenders early or not allow them in jail at all. Efforts to build a north county jail began with the 1991 North Santa Barbara County Correctional Master Plan.

The North County Jail project has been presented to the Board several times in the past as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and has been the largest project presented in the CIP.

In 2005, a North County Jail study was conducted by the County staff and once again presented an acute need for additional jail beds. The cost of the project analyzed and proposed in the study was \$153 million for an 808 bed facility (expandable to 1520 beds). The cost of a similar project with the same bed capacity combined with the State Reentry Facility (SRF) was calculated to be at \$229 million in 2007, with an annual operating cost of \$19 million. Inflation and some additional infrastructure for the SRF are responsible for the project cost increase.

The current jail facility has a capacity rating of 818 inmates and jail industry standards suggest that it should be populated at approximately 85% of this rated capacity. Adhering to this rating would allow for proper classification and housing of inmates by taking into account their gender, risk level, gang affiliation, nature of their crime, etc. In spite of the fact that there are 200-300 offenders in jail-supervised alternative sentencing programs, the County's jail facilities currently house 1000 inmates on any given day. This means that the jail facilities are operating at over 120% of rated capacity.

In 2007, a Blue Ribbon Commission on Jail Overcrowding was formed by the Sheriff and has recently concluded its work. The Blue Ribbon Commission has recommended a blended approach to improving public safety in the community. The blended approach requires additional jail capacity, but also enhancing prevention, intervention and recovery programs as well as enforcement. A financially feasible number of additional jail beds to accommodate the population growth are necessary for implementation of the Blue Ribbon Commission's recommendations.

The Sheriff's Department has proactively sought alternative opportunities to incarceration and the creative addition of bed space in other facilities. In fiscal year 2007-08, the Sheriff's Department brought two actions to the Board of Supervisors to reduce jail overcrowding, both of which were implemented. First, the Sheriff's Department converted the Santa Maria Branch Jail from a Type I to a Type II classification, which added 39 beds within the classification type and allowed the Branch Jail to house inmates longer than the 96 hour limit on Type I facilities. Second, the Sheriff's Department contracted with the City of Lompoc for the use of the Lompoc Jail, which is a Type I Facility. This allows the Sheriff's Department's prisoners to be held up to 96 hours and in some cases eliminates the need to transport inmates to one of the other jail facilities. The Sheriff's Department continues to seek other alternatives to help alleviate jail overcrowding. These would include options for additional facilities as well as the expansion of proactive programs to reduce recidivism.

Despite the efforts, the 1999 needs assessment performed by Rosser International Inc. shows a need that cannot be resolved by alternative measures. A recently completed updated needs assessment displays similar demands. If things remain status quo (i.e. facilities and practices remain the same), by 2010, the needs assessment study indicates that the County will need 500 additional jail beds.

Just as the County has a pressing need for additional jail capacity, the State is facing a similar situation. The Sheriff's Department has been actively engaged with the State in considering options for creating additional County and State inmate housing for those whose domicile was in Santa Barbara County prior to incarceration.

On December 19th, 2006 the Board received an informational presentation from representatives of the Sheriff’s Department and the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) concerning the potential to collocate a State Secure Reentry Facility with a New County Jail.

On June 19th, 2007, the Board signed an Agreement of Cooperation with CDCR to reduce crime and combat the effects of recidivism by allocating state resources to ensure comprehensive parolee re-entry supervision and continuing services for parolees returning to Santa Barbara County.

Since then, the CDCR has issued a request for proposals for construction or expansion of county jails using funding under the AB 900 legislation, which became law in 2007. Under the legislation, CDCR is authorized to enter into agreements with participating counties for the acquisition, design and construction of local jail facilities. Currently, \$750 million dollars is authorized by the legislation for county jail construction.

Santa Barbara County is classified as a medium county for purposes of the application. Large counties with population of 700,001 and more are competing with medium counties (defined as those with populations of 200,001 to 700,000) for a \$650 million dollar portion of the \$750 million dollars available for county jail expansion. Medium counties are eligible for a maximum award of \$80 million dollars, with a 25% local match required.

The proposals will be evaluated based on the factors and points system outlined in the chart below. The maximum number of points a county can receive is 1325.

EVALUATION FACTOR	MAXIMUM POINTS
Project Need	250
Detention Alternatives	100
Scope of Work and Project Impact	100
Administrative Work Plan	100
Net Gain in Beds	200
Cost Effectiveness	150
Cash Match (Beyond the required 25%)	25
Preference Points for Assisting the State in Siting a Reentry Facility	300
Preference Points for Assisting the State with Mental Health and Crisis Care Services for State Parolee and Ex-Offender Population	100
TOTAL POINTS	1325

A full text of the RFP from CDCR can be found at http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Divisions_Boards/CSA/CFC/Index.html .

The Sheriff's Department will be returning to the Board on March 4th to request that the Board authorize the Sheriff to sign a proposal to be submitted to CSA for construction of the north county jail. As part of the proposal, the Board will be asked to approve a resolution to be included as part of the proposal application as required by the RFP. The full proposal will be presented to the Board on that date.

In summary, the proposal will be to build a 304 bed Type II county jail, with the necessary supporting infrastructure, including receiving, laundry, kitchen, administration, programming and related functions. The facility will house both male and female inmates, in a mix of medium security, high security, and isolation cells.

The design is proposed to be expandable to the projected future needs of the county justice system. The number of beds proposed addresses immediate needs, attempts to comply with court orders to reduce overcrowding, and will mitigate existing court stipulations for early release of sentenced inmates. Use of alternatives to incarceration that already exist will continue, along with plans for expanded programs to mitigate some of the forces driving the need for future expansion. The facility will be located in the North County, which is the source of 55% of the South County jail population, and near the largest city.

The proposal anticipates that the State will provide approximately \$58,000,000 for construction and the county will provide (hard and soft match) \$22,000,000. To provide this match and meet all cash flow needs during the course of the project, the county will need to finance approximately \$28 million dollars. The estimated debt service for this match would be approximately \$2.4 million for 30 years.

The estimated additional cost to the county for annual operations is \$12.6 million for staff salaries and services and supplies, in Fiscal Year 07/08 dollars.

Although this project could stand alone, ideally, it would be collocated with a State Reentry Facility. In so doing, these facilities would share in the cost of certain infrastructure and functions, and could reduce the net operational impact to the county by \$3.3 million dollars annually. This is a primary goal of the project pursuant to the June 2007 Cooperative Agreement with CDCR. The discussions and planning for that portion of the project are still ongoing, and finalized proposals will be brought to the Board for consideration at a later time.

Authored by:

Tom Jenkins, Sheriff's Department Commander, Ext 4249

cc: