



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

#3

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

Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
For Agenda Of: 3/4/2008
Placement: Set Hearing
Estimate Time: 30 minutes on 3/11/08
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s) Bob Nisbet (560-1011) *Robert Nisbet*
Contact Info: Paddy Langlands, Assistant Director (568-3096)
SUBJECT: Set Public Hearing on March 11, 2008
**Certification of Subsequent Environmental Impact Report
for County Jail – Northern Branch, Project #8551
4th Supervisorial District**

County Counsel Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence:

As to form: Yes No N/A

Other Concurrence: N/A

As to form: Yes No N/A

Recommended Action(s):

That the Board of Supervisors set a hearing for March 11, 2008 to certify the County Jail EIR.

On March 11, 2008, staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors take the following actions:

1. Adopt the Findings for certification of the Final Environmental Impact Report (SCN: 2007111099); and
2. Certify the Final Environmental Impact Report (SCN: 2007111099) and its included Mitigation Monitoring Plan for the development of a new Santa Barbara County Jail in the Santa Maria area.

Summary:

A Final Subsequent Environmental Impact Report (FSEIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) has been prepared for the Sheriff's Department for acquisition of property and development of a County jail facility in the North County. Public hearings were conducted on the draft Subsequent EIR on January 30, 2008. All comments received on the SEIR, together with appropriate changes to the document, are included in the FSEIR. In addition to the FSEIR, the attached CEQA findings support your Board's certification of the FSEIR.

The FSEIR can be found online at <http://www.sbcountyplanning.org/PDF/projects/07EIR-00003/New-County-Jail-SEIR.pdf>

Background:

The Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department is proposing to acquire 50 acres to site the future construction and operation of a 304-bed, Type II county jail. This will include necessary supporting infrastructure, including inmate receiving, laundry, kitchen, administration, programming and related functions. The facility will house both male and female inmates, in a mix of medium, high security and isolation cells. The site may ultimately support other correctional facilities as well. These may include state Secure Community Reentry Facility (SCRF). The project would be similar to that studied in the original Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project except that the size of the jail has been decreased to 304 beds for the first phase; and (2) the specific site at Betteravia and Black Roads just south of Santa Maria has been selected for the study. The eventual design is intended to be expandable to meet any future needs of the county justice system, and to address further population growth in the County.

The need for an expanded jail capacity in the County of Santa Barbara was identified more than 20 years ago when an overcrowding lawsuit was first filed against the county of Santa Barbara. Since that time, the County Jail has added several housing modules, additional beds, and implemented numerous alternative sentencing programs. In addition to those steps, the County created the 1991 North Santa Barbara County Correctional Master Plan. More than 20 Grand Jury reports have highlighted the need for a new jail for over three decades. A 1999 Needs Assessment highlighted the need for expanded jail capacity. The North County Jail has been brought to the Board of Supervisors many times, and has been the largest project listed in the County Capital Improvement Plan.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes No

Fiscal Analysis:

No impact to Fiscal or Facilities as a result of this action.

Staffing Requirement:

Legal Positions:

0

FTEs:

0

Special Instructions:

Upon approval, please forward the Minute Order to Grady Williams, Support Division, General Services Department.

Attachments:

CEQA Findings

Authored by: Grady Williams, P.E., Capital Projects Manager