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Katherine Douglas *Public Comment*

From: Primitiva Hernandez <executivedirector@805undocufund.org>
Sent: Friday, March 28, 2025 10:52 PM
To: sbcob
Subject: Opposition to Proposed Jail Expansion in Santa Maria – Letter from 805UndocuFund

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Dear Supervisors,

On behalf of 805UndocuFund, please find the attached letter expressing our strong opposition to the proposed jail expansion in Santa Maria. We urge the Board to invest in community-based solutions that foster true public safety and equity.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm regards,

☰ March 29, 2025 Letter to SB County Supervisors



Primitiva Hernández, (She, Her, Ella)

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March 29, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors

105 E. Anapamu St.
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Dear Honorable Supervisors,

On behalf of **805UndocuFund**, I write to express our strong opposition to the proposed expansion of jail infrastructure in Santa Maria. As an organization rooted in community resilience and dedicated to supporting undocumented and immigrant families in times of crisis, we urge the County to reject this costly and shortsighted proposal.

Expanding incarceration facilities does not reflect the values of equity, healing, or public safety. Instead, we call on the Board to invest in **community-based solutions** that address the root causes of harm—such as access to mental health services, stable housing, and youth empowerment programs.

We serve some of the County's most vulnerable residents, many of whom are already disproportionately criminalized due to immigration status, language barriers, and systemic racism. Building more jail beds will not keep our communities safer—it will deepen generational trauma and divert desperately needed resources away from prevention, care, and restoration.

At a projected cost of over **\$100 million**, the proposed expansion would place a significant fiscal burden on taxpayers, while proven, cost-effective alternatives—such as diversion, rehabilitation, and culturally competent services—remain underfunded. We believe our County has the vision and the responsibility to lead with compassion and common sense, not concrete walls.

805UndocuFund stands ready to support collaborative, community-driven strategies that prioritize dignity, equity, and public well-being over incarceration. We urge you to **vote no on the jail expansion** and invest instead in what truly keeps us safe—**each other**.

Sincerely,

Primitiva Hernandez

Executive Director, 805UndocuFund

www.805undocufund.org