

April 15, 2008

Honorable Judge J. William McLafferty
Santa Barbara County Superior Court
1100 Anacapa St., 2nd Floor
Santa Barbara, CA 93121-1107

**Board of Supervisors' responses to Fiscal Year 2007-2008
Grand Jury Report on 'North County Jail: A Step at a Time'**

Dear Judge McLafferty:

During its regular meeting on April 15, 2008, the Board of Supervisors (Board) adopted the following as the Board's response to the relevant findings and recommendations in their Fiscal Year 2007-2008 Grand Jury Report entitled "North County Jail: A Step at a Time".

Finding 1: *AB900 provides an opportunity for Santa Barbara County to compete for funding for a major portion of the North County Jail. A condition for that funding is for the County to partner with the State for a secure parolee re-entry program.*

Response to Finding 1: **The Board adopts the Sheriff Department's response and partially agrees with the finding.**

Assembly Bill 900 (AB900) allows the County to apply for State grant to fund up to 75% of the capital cost to build a New County Jail. The County is not required to partner with the State for a secure parolee re-entry program. However, the County's agreement to partner with the State to locate a re-entry facility in the County, allows the County to receive extra points when the County's proposal will be evaluated by the State.

Recommendation 1: *The Sheriff and the Board of Supervisors should continue to pursue funding for the North County Jail through the AB900 competitive grant process.*

Response to Recommendation 1: **This recommendation has been implemented.**

On June 20, 2007 the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Bill Brown entered into an Agreement of Cooperation between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) and the County of Santa Barbara in which the County and the CDCR committed to work together to locate an appropriate site for a Secure Reentry Facility.

On February 19, 2008 the Sheriff made a presentation to this Board asking the Board to provide conceptual approval for the County to respond to the Corrections Standards Authority's Request for Proposal (RFP) to compete for an award of funds on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara for construction of a county jail. The Board voted unanimously to provide conceptual approval and directed the Sheriff to return on March 11, 2008 for the Board's consideration of adopting the Resolution denoting County assurances in accordance with the RFP.

On March 11, 2008 the Sheriff returned to the Board of Supervisors asking the Board to approve the Resolution giving assurances in accordance with the RFP and authorize the Sheriff to sign and submit the Application for Local Jail Construction Funds. The Board voted unanimously to allow the Sheriff to proceed with the application and enter into an agreement to accept an award on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara and advised of the need to plan for funding of operations.

The Application was submitted to CDCR on March 17, 2008.

Finding 2: *In order to qualify for AB900 funds, the County must convey an assurance to the State that property has been secured that will satisfy the requirements for the construction of the approved facility. That assurance is due by mid-March 2008. Escrow for the property must close within 90 days of the award of funds from AB900.*

Response to Finding 1: **The Board agrees with the finding.**

Recommendation 2: *The County Board of Supervisors should approve, by March 2008, the purchase of property sufficient to build the recommended North County Jail.*

Response to Recommendation 2: **This recommendation has been implemented.**

On March 11, 2008, the Board adopted the Resolution of Necessity to acquire approximately 50 acres in fee simple interest for the site of North County jail facility.

The Board would like to thank the Grand Jury for its Report on 'North County Jail: A Step at a Time'.

Sincerely,

Salud Carbajal

Board of Supervisors, Chair