

Sheila de la Guerra

Public Comment - Group 1 A10

**From:** Lara Cooper <laraanncooper@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 5:12 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Public comment for SCBOS Meeting 2/10 - Hold our sheriff's department accountable for overspending and ICE cooperation



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Greetings, Santa Barbara County Supervisors,

I wanted to contribute my comments to the two items before you on Feb. 10 regarding the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office (A:10 Proposal to hire a design firm/architect for the North County Jail expansion and D2: Consideration of recommendations regarding the Fiscal Year 2024–2025 Sheriff's Office Overtime Usage Report)

Both of these items are directly connected to the lack of accountability from the Sheriff's department, misuse of public funds, and ongoing cooperation with ICE.

I urge the board to take action to call on the Sheriff to end his cooperation with ICE and to rein in the spending on incarceration. Regarding the overtime usage report, I ask that the supervisors order a criminal audit of the Sheriff's Office for potential pay fraud and misuse of public funds. Overtime costs have been out of control for years and rife for abuse and fraud, as the recent discovery of the \$175,000 timecard fraud shows. The county also must end the blank-check policy that covers unchecked Sheriff spending. Supervisors also must limit jail expansion and postpone new construction while misconduct and fiscal abuse remain unresolved. Also, I request that Supervisors formally end the Sheriff's cooperation with ICE by restricting the use of local dollars to be used in aiding collaboration between the Sheriff's Office and ICE.

Regarding the item to hire a design firm for north county jail expansion, please postpone all spending on jail planning and construction until the County's budget crisis is resolved and funding for essential public services is secured. It is prudent to halt any new jail-related expenditures until the Sheriff's Office demonstrates competent, accountable, and transparent fiscal management. We can reduce our jail population by expanding community-based services and health centers, increasing probation, diversion, and pretrial alternatives, and investing in mental health care, substance use treatment, and housing. These approaches are more humane, more cost-effective, and more aligned with constitutional requirements.

Thank you for taking a stand on these important issues in our communities.

Sincerely,  
Lara Cooper  
SB County Resident

## Sheila de la Guerra

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**From:** Mona Miyasato  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 9:33 PM  
**To:** sbcob  
**Subject:** Fw: My comment re Funding A Jail Design Manager

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**From:** maureen earls <maurenearls00@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 7:51 PM  
**To:** Joan Hartmann <jHartmann@countyofsb.org>; Laura Capps <lcapps@countyofsb.org>; royleecarpinteria@gmail.com <royleecarpinteria@gmail.com>; Steve Lavagnino <slavagnino@countyofsb.org>; Bob Nelson <bnelson@countyofsb.org>  
**Subject:** My comment re Funding A Jail Design Manager

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Dear Supervisors,

The following is my input re the funding of a jail expansion design manager position. I hope you hear the public call for this fiscal and moral responsibility. Thank you,  
Maureen

Good morning Supervisors,

I'm speaking on the agenda item to approve funding for a project manager for the North Branch Jail design.

I want to be clear at the outset: a project manager is needed whether the County ultimately builds a 1.0 or a 1.5 housing-unit expansion. Strong management matters.

What matters just as much are the values and priorities that guide what that manager is asked to manage.

Today, people are being held in our jails who do not need to be there—people delayed because the County is not meeting Public Defender staffing standards, people waiting in custody for court-ordered treatment or program placements that are not yet available, and people booked on misdemeanors later rejected for lack of evidence.

These are system failures that cause real harm. They do not require more jail beds—they require implementation, funding, and accountability.

Since your April vote, you have received jail-reduction recommendations showing that population reductions are achievable. **What the community has not yet seen is an updated CEO analysis grounded in a proposed implementation plan for the jail-reduction solutions you have already accepted, and showing how those actions affect the size of the jail actually needed.**

That clarity matters not only for justice, but to protect the County's safety net for critical needs. Avoiding the additional 146 million dollars tied to the 0.5 housing unit could instead help preserve funding for mental health care, substance-use treatment, housing supports, and other essential services now at risk.

We should fix the system first, not spend 146 million dollars building around its failures.

**If you approve this manager position today, I urge you to do so with clear direction that the CEO return promptly with a public analysis comparing a 1.0 and 1.5 housing-unit option, grounded in a proposed implementation plan.**

Leadership here means managing toward solutions that reduce harm first, protect the safety net, and build only what is truly needed.

Thank you.

Maureen Earls