



County of Santa Barbara

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Minute Order

May 6, 2025

Present: 5 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, Supervisor Nelson, and Supervisor Lavagnino

GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

File Reference No. 25-00331

RE: Consider recommendations regarding an Alternative Approach to Achieve Zero Net Energy for Northern Branch Jail (NBJ) Expansion, as follows:

- a) Recommend offsetting the \$14M additional cost required to achieve Zero Net Energy for the NBJ 1.5 Housing Unit expansion by using electricity generated from the previously proposed solar Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) project designated for the NBJ location;
- b) Direct staff to add a 300kW battery to the scope of work for the NBJ PPA and allocate 100% of the energy generated from the project to the proposed 1.5 Housing Unit expansion;
- c) Direct staff to perform an energy audit one year after the 1.5 Housing Unit expansion is in operation to determine if an additional solar PPA is feasible and cost-effective; and
- d) Determine that the proposed actions are not a “project” as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15378(b) (5), as it is an administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect changes in the environment.

Andy Caldwell addressed the Board

A motion was made by Supervisor Capps, seconded by Supervisor Nelson, that this matter be acted on as follows:

- a) **Approved;**
- b) **and c) Directed; and**
- d) **Approved.**

The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: 5 - Supervisor Lee, Supervisor Capps, Supervisor Hartmann, Supervisor Nelson, and Supervisor Lavagnino